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THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY

Dec. 13-19, 2000 • Vol. 35, No. 11 • FREE

The Best of the Bay ... Every Week

# GUERRILLA OUCERBALLA GUERRILLA

A revolutionary party takes back the night.
Plus: New bars, dive bars, and more.
A special BARS AND CLUBS supplement

Masked crusaders: Members of the group Guerrilla Gueer Bar mount a friendly invasion of Sacrifice, a straight bar in the Mission, to bring useer culture to the straight would.

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This week: Runoff election analysis. Plus, the wanking wounded in Ergo Sum



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San Francisco Bay Guardian

Dec. 13-19, 2000

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Doggie in the window: SPCA public relations coordinator Julie Murphy and her canine friend mug for the camera. Find out how to support your local SPCA and other worthy causes this holiday season in our annual Gifts for Good Causes guide.

#### cover story **Guerrilla Queer Bar!**

A revolutionary party takes back the night. Plus: an ode to dive bars, promoters and DJs on the gaystraight divide, and the last days of the CoCo Club. A special Bars and Clubs supplement

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Launched in 1991 as our 25th-anniversary gift to the Bay Area, this annual fund has assisted many local nonprofit groups. This holiday season we once again ask your help in building community through heartfelt giving.

### in this issue

he new, district-elected San Francisco Board of Supervisors hasn't even been seated (in fact, at the time I'm writing this, the new supes haven't even been elected in nine of the 11 districts), and already the attacks on the district system are underway.

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• Club Guide (p.83)

I've already heard several places that the new board won't have as many women as the previous, at-large board (which is odd, and a bad thing, but I'm not sure exactly what it has to do with district elections). And I'm hearing that the winners will take office with only a few thousand votes, because turnout will be low for the runoffs (which is a good reason to move to instant-runoff voting and not a good reason to get rid of district elections).

San Francisco Chronicle columnist Ken Garcia has the most scathing line: he says that San Francisco has too many kooks already and that at least one of them will now be elected supervisor. Which is unfair to all of the kooks who have held that esteemed office under citywide elections, some of them appointed by the mayor.

He goes on to describe how district elections foster political corruption:

"Instead, the new system created more political machines, one run by

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Willie Brown, another spearheaded by Tom Ammiano, and a third leg nominally topped by Clint Reilly, lurking behind the scenes in his mobile money bubble."

I count six mixed metaphors in that 36-word sentence, possibly a record even by Garcia's standards.

Garcia also quotes Don Solem, the political consultant who does work for the likes of PG&E and the Committee on JOBS - and who absolutely despises district elections, for one reason: It's harder for big-money interests to control district-elected supervisors.

The fact is, whatever soft money gets spent in the runoffs, at least a couple of decent, independent candidates will wind up taking office — people who could never have won a citywide election because they could never have raised enough money from Willie Brown's friends and Solem's clients.

Besides, the candidates have all been talking about neighborhood issues, and neighborhood activists and grassroots organizers from across the political spectrum have been energized by these campaigns. There's a sense that we're beginning to take back San Francisco.

Tini Redmond tredmond@sfbg.com

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Our online coverage of the election, www.sfbg.com /election/

#### The wanking wounded

Sex and the computer generation, in Charles Kupperman's Ergo Sum. www.sfbg.com/ergo/04.html

#### 8 Days a Week

Our new a&e newsletter every Thursday via e-mail. Sign up at www.sfbg.com/newsletter.html

#### **Germany's Watergate**

The Nazi link to the Kohl scandal. Second of two parts. Martin A. Lee's Reality Bites every Monday, www.sfbg.com /reality/08.html

#### Saturation coverage

What if other issues got the same treatment? Norman Solomon's MediaBeat shines a light on corporate news bias every Friday. www.sfbg.com/MediaBeat /147.html

#### **David Brower**

Opposing blind progress. Ralph Nader's In the Public Interest. www.sfbg.com/nader/129.html

#### **High definition**

Steve Robles' new weekly TV column. www.sfbg.com/media/tv/high

#### TV picks

First Person Plural - on KQED ch. 9, Mon/18, 10 p.m. - and other TV picks, www.sfbg.com/media/tv

#### 'Hippy Porn'

Anhoni Patel on local films, all month in VHS Nation, www.sfbg.com /AandE/vhs/17.html

#### Dong-dong-dickey-doo

Looseleaf, new short fiction every Thursday by Dan Leone. www.sfbg.com/looseleaf/62.html

#### Death and the oyster tongue

Naim Sultan's Off Trail. www.sfbg.com/offtrail/10.html

#### **Crossing over**

Who said a "real man" must be always ready? Andrea Nemerson's alt.sex.column. A new, uncut asc posts at noon every Friday. www.sfbg.com/asc/184.html

#### Holiday shopping

Get kinky for the holidays and give 'til it hurts. Mistress Marisha's The Truth Hurts, www.sfbg.com/truth /78.html

#### Tesla and UFOs

It is all part of a plan in the Nessie Files. www.sfbg.com/nessie /31.html

The net mix from sfbg.com including the latest on the election. www.sfbg.com/sfblog

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#### letters

### to the editor

#### The white-collar poor

I found your article on the H-1B visa something only a high tech CEO would love ["Immigrant Labor," 11/15/00]. It hasn't been established by the Department of Labor that the importation of high tech labor is even needed. What has been established is the lower wages paid to these foreign workers, the high number of hours they must work, and the difficulties these workers have in changing jobs. The Department of Labor has little authority to supervise the program and it is rife with abuse. How about doing an objective article on the problems with the H-1B visa and the proliferation of working white-collar poor?

Carol Ioval Los Gatos

#### The real Hollow City

David Kissinger's testy review of several new books on cities gets a few things wrong about ours ["Whither the City?" 11/29/00]. For starters, I am not the sole author of Hollow City. It is a collaboration with the photographer Susan Schwartzenberg, who put together the book's five photoessays and 75 or so photographs of historic and contemporary San Francisco, and its subtitle is The Siege of San Francisco and the Crisis of American Urbanism. These errors may be due to a faulty interim cover that our accident-prone publishers sent out, but Kissinger goes on to make his own mistakes. In a spiteful or sloppy misreading, he charges that I imply that "dot-commers are like potential rapists." In fact, the section he quotes from is about the gentrification of New

York's Lower East Side in the 1980s long before there even were any dotcommers, and the point of jokingly comparing the wealthy who follow artists into vulnerable neighborhoods to the creeps who follow teenage girls around is simply that people are not always responsible for who they attract. I never referred to rapists or dot-commers in this passage.

I got the impression that Kissinger hadn't read much of the book he says "does not tell a well-balanced or informed story." Hollow City strives hard to capture the complexities of San Francisco's crisis with sentences such as "Some of the more thoughtful, outraged and progressive people I've met work for dot-coms; two of the most vile landlords I've heard about have fair local reputations as artists; there are no clear-cut lines to be drawn in the highspeed spin of change." As for "well-balanced," if balance means finding a positive side to homogenization and the hemorthage of San Francisco's artistic and activist communities, we're happy to lean way over to the left there.

Rebecca Solnit San Francisco

#### **Brown's labor speech**

While reading Mike Orrfelt's article regarding our council's position on Proposition K, I was surprised to read Mike's description of Mayor Brown's speech at our COPE/Labor Neighbor dinner ["Labor's Job-Housing Divide," 10/18/00]. The information printed is totally inaccurate since Mayor Brown did not make the statement mentioned in the article. I was even more concerned since when Mr. Orrfelt mentioned what he had been told, I told him the information was not true. Mayor Brown's speech was a basic political presentation, positive in every manner and was not in any way, shape, or form a statement of chastisement of Labor's political operation.

I just wanted to "clear the air" to make sure accurate information becomes a reality.

Walter L. Johnson Secretary-Treasurer San Francisco Labor Council, AFL-CIO

Mike Orrfelt responds: Mayor Brown's lecture to the labor leaders at the Committee on Political Education (COPE) dinner was reported to me by a delegate in attendance and confirmed by a second union member present. The mayor's press office neither confirmed nor denied the

If Mayor Brown did not chastise the Labor Conneil, why did COPE reconsider its endorsements, bringing them more in line with the mayor's wishes?

It is the dues-paying union members not included in the COPE endorsement process who need accurate information on their leaders' relationship with politicians. Can we look forward to a more democratic union endorsement process in the future, Walter?

#### The 'Bay Guardian' and Exxon

When the sex-obsessed writers of the "sex industry"-supported Guardian complain about women being relegated to demeaning roles at Comdex, it's

a little like Exxon complaining about oil spills ["Digital Cleavage," 11/9/00]. How can you be so blind?

> Jim Gibson Oakland

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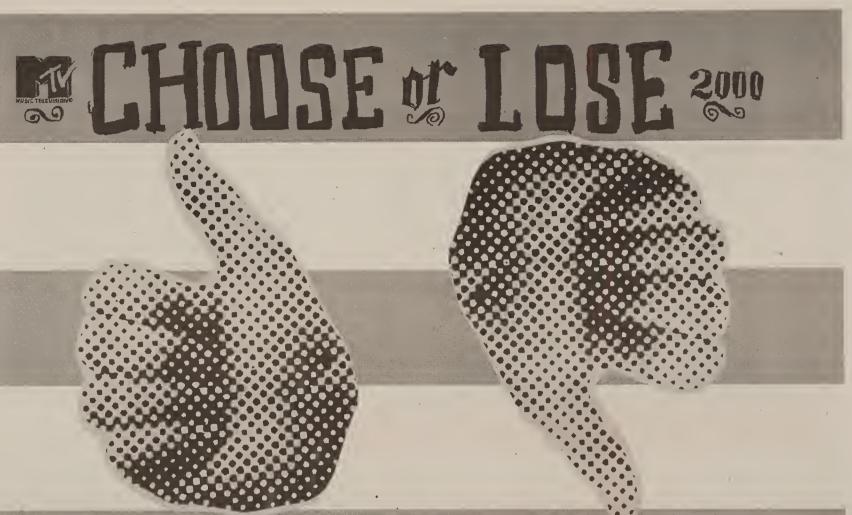






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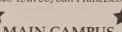
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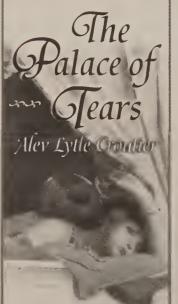
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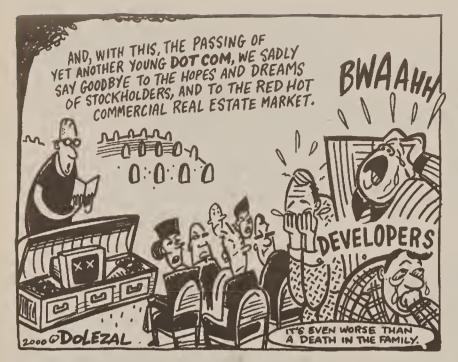


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opinion by cintra wilson

### I felt your pain

earest San Francisco Examiner Readers Now Deprived of My Supreme Oracular Guidance: As many of you may or may not know, I, the glamorous woman with the exploding head who once served you every Friday in the San Francisco Examiner, will not be appearing in the New Intproved Überchronicle. This saddens me deeply.

An institution since 1994, "Cintra Wilson Feels Your Pain" was more than just a place where I gave questionable, irreverent, and often tactless advice. It became a local forum, a complaint booth, and a lateral-opinion bulletin board, a place where the town

Now the

intellectual kings

of the city are

the ultrasquare

finance clones.

malcontents could whine and argue and seethe and bemoan the fates of their own failures and those of our culture, and pretend to write like me. I loved it — the fan letters and the hate mail and everything in between.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank, from the entrails of my grateful soul, everyone who wrote to me, even the pedantic assholes who idiotically accused me at various

times of being sexist and/or racist and/or homophobic. Since I've stopped writing the column, I feel indescribably lonely.

My column, where I never said "cock" or "fuck" or anything, is considered to be "too wild" (that's what they told me) for the new San Francisco Chronicle. This is a tragic state of affairs and seems to be indicative of a tidal shift in the city that many people are feeling, and not just Examiner kids like me who are now in freelance free fall.

My column might not have been terribly important, but it is indicative of the kind of funky, momand-pop, non-cash- or sex-oriented thing San Francisco is currently liposucking out of itself at 56,000 baud per second. San Francisco was supposed to be the one place in America that didn't buckle to such conservative Comstockery, wowserism, and corporate homogenization. It was supposed to remain hip. Kids from Iowa and Montana are supposed to run away from home and come here, to the spot that was the cradle of the Summer of Love, the queer mecca, the jazzbo Shangri-la, the beatnik crash palace where the speediest minds sank or swam but had the liberty to do either one or both.

Now the intellectual kings of the city are the ultrasquare finance clones, and everybody follows money around like they might have followed Ken Kesey 35 years ago.

Now the Lexus SUVs are everywhere, the real estate market is like trying to buy square yards of hammered platinum, everybody looks like a Banana Republican, and the general consensus among my artistic comrades is that the funk, soul, art, and flavor is leaking out of San Francisco's ass in a big, big way.

Much in the way that Sausalito whored off all of

its charm and character when all of the filthy, wonderful little book and junk shoppes became T-shirt conglomerates in the early '80s, the collective intellect of San Francisco in the oughties is being Miracle Whipped into one big, polite, edgeless, elite, Martha Stewart consumer Bundt cake of a thing with a big empty hole in the middle.

There are conservative-ass, scary times ahead, children.

Lately I have had to fight like a rat to retain every scrap of quasi-subversive material in every publication I write for. Fear of lawsuits and pissing off commercial interests has done a more successful job of gelding the First Amendment than any early-Soviet-style dissident torture ever could

Mass media is yellow-dog cowardly and greedy to the point of no return. Sure, I always have the option of keeping my freak flag flying in zines and e-zines and places that pay \$20 an article, but my point is that screamers, naysayers, and people like me who point at the emperor's new dick and laugh are being aggressively starved out of the picture, now more than at any other time I've ever seen.

So farewell, my friends. I thank you for letting me Feel Your Pain. And remember: the corporate mind is a hive-mind. The mass media is conditioning you all to live in tiny cubicles as drone-slaves. It's time to move to Amsterdam. Selah. ❖

Cintra Wilson used to write for the Hearst San Francisco Examiner.

#### editorials

### **Dialing with dollars**

s the first election of supervisors by district in s the first election of super visite of 20 years draws to a close, it's painfully apparent: San Francisco's campaign finance laws have more holes than a doughnut shop.

Foremost in the ranks of abuses, of course, are the millions of dollars in soft money that flooded into the district races. But attempts to regulate soft money have foundered on a series of court decisions equating independent campaign spending with political speech - giving millionaires' money First Amendment protections.

In recent years, though, an increasing chunk of that money has gone to pay for phone calls to voters - and that's something the city can regulate. As Gabriel Roth reports on page 12, some of these calls disseminate legitimate political messages, whether from phone-bank volunteers, outof-state telemarketers, or recorded voices. But others are more disturbing — like the calls that went out claiming Jake McGoldrick, Matt Gonzalez, and Gerardo Sandoval are Republicans. (They aren't.) That's scraping the bottom of the barrel, even in San Francisco politics.

Almost as bad as the outright lying is the fact that there's no one to hold accountable for those calls. Whether they're spreading misinformation or just urging supporters to the polls, callers don't have to tell voters who's paying them or who wrote

The city could address that problem right now. Everyone who prints campaign literature is required by law to include the sponsor's name — and even if it's just a misleading committee name like Chinese Americans for a Better San Francisco, that name can be traced to the real sponsors. Voters who receive a flyer in the mail can, with a little digging, find out where it's coming from — and candidates who are defamed have an accuser to respond to. No one would put out a mailer calling a Democrat (or a Green like Gonzalez) a Republican: they'd be identified and made to look foolish.

It would be simple to apply those disclosure laws to campaign phone calls. Callers should have to identify the source of their message right at the beginning of the call; otherwise, recorded messages could go on for 10 minutes, forcing all but the most patient recipients to push the erase button before the announcement.

The new district-based Board of Supervisors ought to be able to pass these common-sense campaign reform laws right away. If those phone calls worked too well, though, the Brown machine candidates who benefited from these sleazy calls will want to prevent any such legislation. In that case, the Ethics Commission should take such a law to the ballot — as it did when the supervisors blocked the reforms that became this year's Proposition O. Together, disclosure laws and truth-in-phoning laws would keep telephone campaigning, if not clean, at least no dirtier than the rest of San Francisco politics. ❖

### Free political prisoners

ast August President Bill Clinton released from prison 11 members of a Puerto Rican nationalist organization who were serving long prison terms for political crimes. Then this month he announced a six-month moratorium on federal executions while the fairness and accuracy of death sentences is reviewed.

Those worthy moves suggest that Clinton is (finally) willing to take some political risks - and that he might be willing, in the name of improving his dubious political legacy, to use his last month in office to grant clemency to other political prisoners, particularly American Indian activist Leonard Peltier, and to press for the release of Lori Berenson in Peru.

Clinton has agreed to review Peltier's case, and while the Federal Bureau of Investigation remains steadfast in its opposition to any pardon or parole, the evidence that Peltier was wrongfully convicted in 1977 continues to grow.

Peltier, an activist in the American Indian Movement, was charged with the murder of FBI agents Jack Coler and Ronald Williams, who were killed during a 1975 shoot-out at the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota. He fled to Canada after the shootings and was extradited in 1976. But evidence that's come to light since the trial (including ballistics records that the government had withheld at the time) now suggests that Peltier couldn't have been the one who shot the two agents.

And just this week the commissioner of a Canadian inquiry into the Peltier case concluded that Peltier had been wrongly extradited because of false testimony from a key witness. Myrtle Poor Bear, who had testified at the time that she witnessed the shootings, now says she was coerced into giving that testimony by FBI agents who threatened her life. The commissioner, Fred Kaufman, a judge of the Quebec Court of Appeal, wrote in his findings of fact that the extradition almost certainly would have been denied if the

truth about Poor Bear's statements were known at the time.

The Peltier case has attracted worldwide attention - groups such as Amnesty International and the European Parliament have called for his release, as have Nelson Mandela, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and the Dalai Lama. The case for granting Peltier executive clemency is compelling, and it would send a strong, positive message. Clinton ought to make Peltier's re-

There are numerous other people serving long sentences in federal and state prisons for political crimes committed during the 1960s and early 1970s, none of them as famous as Peltier. But in many cases, their trials were also questionable, and their sentences far longer than normal for the crimes in question. A local group called Clemency 2000 has written a letter to President Clinton on behalf of Peltier and 14 others; the Prison Activist Resource Center (prisonactivist.org) has a much longer list, with detailed descriptions of each person's situation. Clemency 2000 urges Clinton to consider the political winds of the times, which may well have affected many of these sentences. At the very least, many of the cases deserve further review.

Meanwhile, Clinton has yet to speak out forcefully or take any significant action on behalf of Berenson, the young New Yorker who was imprisoned five years ago in Peru on charges of terrorism. Berenson faced a military trial before hooded judges at which she was not allowed to cross-examine any witnesses or see any of the evidence against her. Her arrest was, and is, directly related to a corrupt Peruvian government's war against democracy and dissent. Thanks to international pressure, she's been promised a new, civilian trial, but her advocates fear that's just an excuse for the government to reconfirm her life sentence. Clinton can, and should, loudly demand her release. ❖



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### Telephony

#### Electoral telemarketers are spreading lies on the campaign trail — and nobody's monitoring them

**By Gabriel Roth** 

Jake McGoldrick learned he was a Republican from a stranger on the phone. McGoldrick was facing incumbent supervisor Michael Yaki in a Richmond District runoff Dec. 12. One night, he says, he received a call at home from someone who claimed to be calling on behalf of Michael Yaki.

"I said, 'Tell me about his opponent,'" McGoldrick says. "They said, 'His opponent is a Republican."

McGoldrick, a Democrat, hid his outrage. "I said, 'I know this guy pretty well; are you sure?" he says. "They said, 'It says so here on my screen."

The call to McGoldrick — and to less well-informed Richmond residents was one of many misleading messages sent to voters via phone during the runoff campaign. Two other candidates were falsely accused of membership in the Republican Party by anonymous callers. And some District Three voters were targeted by push-polls: callers pretending to be conducting a survey asked questions designed to implant a message rather than glean information.

The growing number of political calls this election year — and the series of false accusations - shine a light on a gaping loophole in San Francisco's campaign disclosure laws: phone callers don't have to tell recipients where they're calling from or who's paying them. "You don't have a constitutional right to put out false information or to defame someone," says Paul Melbostad, of the city's Ethics Commission. "It's not conducive to the public being properly informed."

Campaigns themselves shy away from outright lying over the phone. But the most powerful players in modern San Francisco elections aren't the campaigns or the candidates. They're the independent expenditure committees coordinated by allies of Mayor Willie Brown, Those committees can spend unlimited money hiring fleets of electoral telemarketers in faroff states - and the candidates they attack over long-distance phone lines have no way to hold them accountable.

In San Francisco, being associated with the GOP can be the kiss of death. So it was considered a political smear when anonymous callers told voters that candidates Matt Gonzalez and Gerardo Sandoval, as well as McGoldrick, are Republicans.

Eugene Zhukovsky, a biochemist who lives in Duboce Park, says he received a call at 10 a.m. on Nov. 18 from someone claiming to represent the Juanita Owens campaign. He says the caller told him there were two candidates on the District Five ballot: Juanita Owens, "a Democrat," and Matt Gonzalez, "a Republican."

Sandoval is a Democrat and Gonzalez recently switched his party affiliation from Democrat to Green. In fact, both are firmly to the left of their runoff opponents, as is McGoldrick.

It's unclear who paid for the calls. Gonzalez ran against Juanita Owens, while Sandoval faced off against Sup. Amos Brown. Yaki, Owens, and Brown campaign representatives all said they didn't know anything about the misleading phone calls and that they certainly weren't funded by the campaigns.

But Yaki, Owens, and Brown all ran with the strong backing of Mayor Willie Brown and the wealthy political action committees that support him. The fact that all three candidates were tarred with the same brush suggests the calls were organized as an independent expenditure that is, organized by an independent group rather than a candidate's campaign.

Campaign disclosures on file with the city's Ethics Commission show payments totaling \$44,600 to the Clinton Group, a Washington, D.C.-based firm that specializes in telephone campaigning. The money came from the Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club and Chinese Americans for a Better San Francisco - two of the PACs that strongly backed the mayor's candidates.



#### Homes, not dot-coms

Demanding "housing for the people, not for computers," more than 100 protesters erected fake homes with mattresses, couches, lamps, and TVs outside 1800 Bryant Dec. 7.

The bitingual rally, organized by the Mission Anti-Displacement Coalition (MAC) to draw attention to dot-com firms' violation of live-work rules, was part of a campaign for community planning.

The Bay Guardian has reported that 1800 Bryant has been leased by Zing.com, which is using much of the building exclusively as office space (see "'That's Part of the Scam," 11/15/00).

Protesters chained one of the building's doors shut and blocked entrances. Police, responding to the building owner's complaints, arrested 12 demonstrators.

'The planning commission is turning its head, allowing its own codes to be broken," said Amie Fishman, a MAC coordinator.

The Planning Department has received at least one complaint about the property. City Planner Lois Scott told us, "Our inspection confirmed that a portion is being used as office space, and we are waiting to talk to the zoning administrator about

One block away from the protest, the Day Labor Program, a group that advocates for day laborers, works out of trailers. "It's a disgrace that the program has been looking for a place for 10 years and the city allows one dot-com to move in almost overnight," Renee Saucedo, the program's director, told us.

Shoshanna Marks

When called for comment, Clinton Group president Walter Clinton referred us to Barnes Mosher Whitehurst, the San Francisco consulting firm that coordinated independent expenditures for the mayor's candidates. BMW representatives did not return phone calls for this story.

#### The push-poll effect

Some District Three residents were apparently targeted by a different phone strategy, known as push-polling. Telling voters they're doing research on the race, push-pollsters then ask questions designed to influence the respondent's opinion rather than gather data. Push-polls made headlines in this year's Republican primary battle, when George W. Bush was accused of using them against John McCain in South Carolina.

District Three voter Tony Long, who walked precincts for Aaron Peskin's runoff campaign against Lawrence Wong, says he was push-polled on election night.

"The guy didn't identify himself, but you could tell pretty quickly where he was coming from," Long told us. "All the questions he asked were skewed: he

See "Telemarketers," page 17

### Desperate times, desperate measures

#### District elections saw a flurry of last-minute dirty politics

#### By Savannah Blackwell and Cassi Feldman

As district election runoffs went down to the wire, several campaigns kicked their misinformation efforts into high gear.

Mark Leno, in his effort to keep reformer Eileen Hansen from edging him out of District Eight, resorted to some cheap shots. First he claimed in a recent mailer that Hansen did little to help the campaign against the homophobic Knight initiative. Nearly everyone in the gay community rallied to defeat that measure, and Hansen was no exception: as a leader of a legal referral group for AIDS patients, she campaigned hard against the measure.

Leno, like many machine candidates, also tried to smear his opponent with Clint Reilly's problematic baggage. According to Hansen's campaign manager, Jerry Windley, the Department of Public Works erroneously issued a handbill permit number to Hansen's campaign that had previously been given to Reilly. DPW admitted the mistake - yet, Windley says, Leno's campaign continued to spread the rumor that Reilly was bankrolling Hansen.

In similar fashion, the Independent, that pillar of machine chestbeating, ran two full-page ads painting Reilly as the soft-money Svengali behind progressive district-election campaigns - though it was Mayor Willie Brown's candidates who set local records for soft money spent in

Lawrence Wong, the machine's

District Three candidate, also tried Reilly-baiting his opponent, Aaron Peskin. One pro-Wong, anti-Peskin mailer linked the progressive neighborhood activist with Reilly and powerhouse builder Joe O'Donoghue. "Renters Beware," the mailer thundered, describing Peskin as a tool of 'anti-rent control power brokers and real éstate insiders." Never mind that Peskin refused any support or money from O'Donoghue.

The new "Fangxaminer" redid the old Hearst editorial endorsements from the runoffs, transforming a mixed lineup of machine candidates, independents, and neighborhood reformers into an across-theboard machine slate - with the strange exception of Matt Gonzalez for District Five.

#### With friends like these ...

In a gaffe that can only be explained by political naïveté or a profound lack of sleep, Sophie Maxwell's campaign failed to notice that Gail Neira, a Republican supporter, was sending out a xenophobic letter on Maxwell's behalf. Emphasizing Richardson's status as an immigrant from Nigeria, Neira's letter states that the candidate is "still adjusting to a U.S. multi-cultural diversity her native country has not yet fathomed." Neither Richardson nor Neira could be reached for comment, but Maxwell's campaign manager, Greg Asay, said he was embarrassed by the mistake. "We were approached by Gail that she wanted to write a personal letter," he told us. "We didn't see the piece before it went out. We feel it's quite unfortunate." &

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### Renne caves on Sunshine Ordinance conflict

**By Rachel Brahinsky** 

In an apparent concession to conflict-ofinterest charges that have been dogging her office for weeks, City Attorney Louise Renne has reassigned a deputy who, in possible violation of the Sunshine Ordinance, has been advising both the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force and the Human Rights Commission.

The Sunshine Ordinance, the city's open records and meetings law, requires that one city attorney be designated "solely" to advise the task force. But deputy city attorney Jackie Minor has been counseling both the HRC and the task force since July.

Minor's case raises an important question: Is it reasonable to ask a city attorney who is advising an agency under fire for violating the Sunshine Ordinance to offer guidance to the task force charged with enforcing that law?

A new deputy will replace Minor Jan. 1, task force chair Hilda Bernstein announced at the group's Dec. 7 meeting. "It is my understanding that the new attorney will not be assigned to any other department," Bernstein later told the Bay Guardian.

The change comes as the task force gears up for new hearings on complaints against the Human Rights Commission.

Renne has not explained why she made the change, which comes just two weeks after she denied that her office's counsel to the task force posed a conflict of interest.

We sent a letter to Renne Dec. 7 asking why she is transferring Minor and to see if she agreed that Minor's double role had violated the ordinance. Her spokesperson said she had no comment.

Task force member Judy Appel told us the group is forming a committee to assess how the task force should ad dress conflicts in the future. "We need to come up with checks to make sure there's an independent assessment, particularly [in cases] where the city attorney was involved in an initial determination that a record wasn't public, or that there was no violation of the [law],'

Meanwhile, on Dec. 19 the task force will hold hearings on two complaints filed against the HRC by Dawn Clements and Henry Jamerson, both of whom were recently fired from an HRC advisory committee (see "More Sunshine Complaints Against the HRC," 12/6/00). .

The hearing is scheduled for Tues/19, 4 p.m., City Hall, Room 408, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, S.F. (415) 554-7724.

E-mail Rachel Brahinsky at rachel@sfbg.com.

### Public power fight pushes on

**By Rachel Brahinsky** 

As high rates and blackouts resulting from energy deregulation threaten the Bay Area, the move to form a public power agency is moving forward.

Resolutions calling for an election on the municipal utility district initiative and establishing MUD ward boundaries are being referred to a San Francisco Board of Supervisors' committee and are likely to be considered in early January.

The resolutions come as newspapers statewide are slowly waking up to the benefits of public power.

Mass-media coverage of deregulation usually omits the public power op-

tion, and they're really doing a disservice to their readers," Joel Ventresca, cochair of the Coalition for Lower Utility Bills, told us. "Now bits and pieces are breaking through the news because people are getting to a desperate state."

The Los Angeles Times and the San Mateo County Times both pointed out recently that public agencies are not hitting customers with blackouts and high rates. But the San Francisco Chronicle still barely covers the issue. The new Fang San Francisco Examiner has been covering the local MUD campaign but called the proposal "ludicrous" in a Dec. 4 editorial.

Meanwhile, district elections seem to have pulled some supervisorial candidates off the fence. Tony Hall and Sophie Maxwell recently declared their support for a MUD. And Sup. Mark Leno, who told us this summer that he was still studying the issue, wrote in a Dec. 5 Examiner op-ed that he now supports the formation of a MUD.

In related news, at press time we learned that the Dec. 12 and Dec. 19 meetings of the Local Agency Formation Commission were canceled. ❖

LAFCO holds one special meeting this month. We will announce the agenda when more information is available. Fri/29, 3 p.m., City Hall, Room 263, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, S.F. (415) 554-5184.

E-mail Rachel Brahinsky at rachel@sfbg.com.

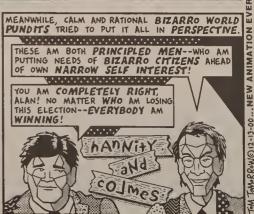
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BY TOM TOMORAOW









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#### **Telemarketers**

From page 12

described Aaron as 'backed by the Ammiano-Reilly machine,' and he would preface his questions by saying, 'Lawrence Wong, who's an independent candidate for supervisor, feels this; what do vou feel?'

Wong campaign consultant Marc O'Hara says those calls didn't originate with the Wong campaign. "We didn't do anything like that," he told us. "I think [push-polling] is duplicitous. It's a way to distribute your message in a more anonymous fashion, in a more nuanced and subtle way. Having said that, I've never done it."

O'Hara's views are shared by political consultants across the country, at least officially. In June 1996, the American Association of Political Consultants issued a statement condemning push-polls. Voter persuasion by telephone is a perfectly legitimate campaign practice," the declaration states. "What we condemn is advocacy phone calling that masquerades as survey research."

Still, push-poll attacks are notoriously hard to counter. "They can be very damaging," says former Spokane, Wash., mayor Jack Geraghty. Geraghty, now a political consultant, was unseated in a 1997 race in which, he says, he was targeted by push-polls. "They can say whatever they want about you, and there's no way to respond."

#### **Calling for reform**

The most glaring gulf in laws governing campaign phone calls is the absence of disclosure requirements. Anyone printing campaign signs or leaflets is required to state on the literature who's paying for it. But phone callers aren't bound by those restrictions. After McGoldrick heard himself described as a Republican, he says, he spoke to the caller's supervisor, then to the supervisor's supervisor. Neither would tell him what company was making the call or who was footing the bill.

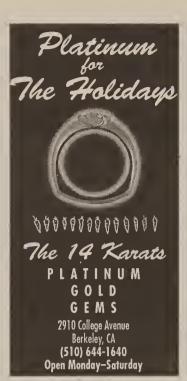
Meaningful phone-reform legislation would require all campaign messages to indicate who paid for them, would prohibit giving out false information in a political phone call, and would bar callers from falsely claiming to be pollsters. Melbostad wants to see such a law passed "to promote fair and honest elections."

"There's no reason why [funding sources] should be disclosed any less when it's a phone message than in print."

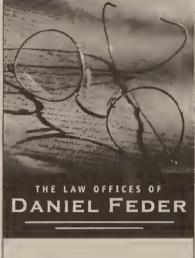
Sup. Tom Ammiano, a champion of campaign ethics laws, says he hopes to see such a law enacted next year. "It's the lying and the distortion I'm concerned about," he told us. "With full disclosure, at least you'd make voters think a little more." 💠

Voters who have received questionable campaign phone calls are urged to inform the Ethics Commission. The commission's next meeting takes place at 5 p.m., Jan. 8, 2001, Room 408, City Hall, 1 Carlton B. Goodlett Place, S.F. The commission's offices are at 1390 Market Street, Suite 801, S.F., 94102. (415) 554-9510.

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#### **Call for clemency**

Wednesday, Dec. 13-Wednesday, Dec. 20, President Bill Clinton is considering Leonard Peltier's petition for clemency for the first time. Call the White House to show your support for the ailing Peltier's release. Also this week, the Peltier Action Coalition and the Plight of the Redwoods Campaign hold a prayer circle in support of a pardon. Prayer circle Snn/17, noon-3 p.m., People's Park, Dwight and Haste, Berk. (510) 464-4534. Call the White House comments line at (202) 456-1111.

#### Navy yard cleanup in H.P.

Wednesday, Dec. 13, tell city hall to put the brakes on any development of the Hunters Point shipyard until the U.S. Navy cleans up the toxic mess it left behind, at a meeting of the Mayor's Hunters Point Shipyard Citizen's Advisory Committee, 6-8 p.m., Southeast Community College, Alex Pitcher Community Room, 1800 Oakdale, S.F. (415) 822-4622.

#### Holiday gift drive

Wednesday, Dec. 13-Tuesday, Dec. 19, donate goodies to homeless and low-income youth at Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency's 11th Annual Children's Holiday Gift Drive. Mon.-Fri., 2-6 p.m., 1708B MLK Jr. Way, Berk. (510) 848-3409.

#### Confront the S.F. **Planning Commission**

Thursday, Dec. 14, join activists of the Mission Anti-Displacement Coalition at this week's Planning Commission meeting and voice your disapproval of yet another 30,000-square-foot office development in the Mission. 1:30 p.m., steps of City Hall, 1 Carlton B. Goodlett Place, S.F. (415) 431-4210.

#### 'Electile Dysfunction'

Thursday, Dec. 14, the National Lawyers Guild presents "The Electile Dysfunction and Its Meaning for the Left," a forum with Green Party senatorial candidate Medea Benjamin, Wilson Riles, Jr. of the American Friends Service Committee, Steve Hill of the Center for Voting and Democracy, and others. 7-9:30 p.m., Centro del Pueblo, 474 Valencia, S.F. Free. (415) 285-1055.

#### Health care workers strike

Thursday, Dec. 14, health care workers from 20 Bay Area hospitals begin their strike with a march and rally sponsored by the Healthcare Workers Union Local 250. Gather 1:30 p.m., UC Berkeley Student Union, Bancroft and Telegraph, Berk.; rally 3 p.m., Colby Plaza, Alta Bates Hospital, 2450 Asliby, Berk. (510) 587-4503.

#### Pull the plug on the Potrero power plant

Thursday, Dec. 14, concerned citizens are invited to attend a workshop on the proposed Potrero Power Plant Project, at which the plans of the proposed developer, Southern Energy Delta, will be discussed. The meeting is sponsored by the California Energy Commission and

includes a public comment period at the end. 2-9 p.m. (one-hour dinner break 5 p.m.), Potrero Hill Neighborhood House anditorium, 953 De Haro, S.F. Call for price information, 1-800-822-6228.

#### 'POOR' mag turns four

Friday, Dec. 15, celebrate POOR magazine's ongoing resistance to poverty and race and class oppression at the release party and benefit for the "Mothers Issue," the first issue of the magazine's fourth volume. The event includes spoken word and performances by POOR contributors as well as a dinner of homemade soup and bread. 7 p.m., 255 Ninth St., S.F. Free-\$10 sliding scale. (415) 863-6306.

#### Stop senior evictions!

Friday, Dec. 15, the Senior Housing Action Collaborative and the San Francisco Tenants Union hold a modified carol sing-along at the law offices of Weigel and Fried. Exercise your lungs to the tunes of "I'll be Homeless for Christmas" for the lawyers who evicted 80-year-old Lola McKay last year and who are now targeting two more seniors facing displacement. 1:30 p.m., Weigel and Fried, 414 Gongli, S.F. (415) 863-2033, ext. 2.

#### **Japanese Americans on WWII**

Saturday, Dec. 16, San Francisco artist Ruth Asawa, author and professor Ronald Takaki, and Kimi Kodani, granddaughter of resistance artist Chiura Obata, discuss Japanese American perspectives on World War II at "The Transcendent Landscapes of Chiura Obata," an exhibit at the de Young museum. 10 a.m.-noon, M.H. de Young Memorial Museum, Trustees' Anditorium, Golden Gate Park, 75 Hagiwara Tea Garden, S.F. Free with museum admission (\$7, \$5 for seniors, \$4 for youth). (415) 565-0201.

#### Report back from Cuba

Saturday, Dec. 16, delegates from the International Action Center, the Friendshipment Caravan, Venceremos Brigade, Marin Interfaith Taskforce, and others report back from the second International World Solidarity with Cuba conference in Havana and show a video of their trip. 7-9 p.m., San Francisco Women's Building, 3543 18th St., S.F. \$5-\$10 donation. (415) 821-6545.

#### **HRC** on the grill

Tuesday, Dec. 19, the Human Rights Commission and Mayor's Office staff testify at hearings on two sunshine complaints against the troubled HRC. 4 p.m., City Hall, Room 408, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, S.F. (415) 554-7724. \*

Mail items for Alerts to the Bay Guardian, 520 Hampshire, S.F., CA 94110; fax to (415) 255-8762; or e-mail camille @sfbg.com. Please include a contact teleplione number. Items must be received at least one week prior to publication date. Call (415) 255-3100, ext. 545, for more information. For moré events, see the Benefits listings in the Calendar section or visit the Bay Guardian Action Network on the Web at sfbg.com/action.

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## Soaking the poor

S.F.'s Bechtel wants the Bolivian people to pay for its bad water investment. By Daniel Zoll

ast spring, thousands of residents of Cochabamba, Bolivia, seized control of the city's central plaza to protest a dramatic increase in their water bills, which by some accounts had doubled or even tripled. The protests triggered clashes across the country over a wide range of other economic problems. In response, the federal government declared a state of emergency and ordered a violent military crackdown. By the time the tear gas had cleared, six people had been killed and hundreds injured.

The target of the Cochabamba uprising was the local water utility, Aguas del Tunari (AdT), which was operated in part by International Water Ltd., an affiliate of San Francisco-based Bechtel Group. In a victory for privatization foes, the protesters succeeded in ousting AdT, rolling back rates, and restoring public control of the water system. Last month the Bolivian government formally canceled AdT's 40year contract.

But the controversy is far from settled. Now, according to Bolivian news reports and documents obtained by the Bay Guardian, Bechtel is threatening to use a 1992 trade agreement between Holland and Bolivia to sue the Bolivian government, seeking at least \$25 million in damages and future lost profits. If the company follows through with its threat, a secret tribunal set up by the World Bank will hear the case.

The people here in Cochabamba have made it very clear that there is not going to be one cent of compensation," said Tom Kruse, an American activist and academic living in Cochabamba. "The Bechtel affiliate came here and raised prices before improving the water system. They were going to use money from the pockets of poor people to fund their investments."

Kruse is working with the Coalition for the Defense of Water and Life, the grassroots community and labor group that organized the water-privatization protests. The coalition says Bechtel is trying to use the Netherlands trade treaty to circumvent the Bolivian legal system and to escape the scrutiny of local water customers.

The Bechtel-Bolivia dispute is the latest example of a trend that worries social-justice and environmental advocates around the world: increasingly, corporations are exploiting new global investment rules in order to bypass conventional legal and political channels and to challenge domestic laws.

#### Bechtel's tap dance

Bechtel, which recently was awarded a \$45 million contract to manage the upgrade of San Francisco's water system, reported \$15 billion in revenues last

year on engineering and construction projects around the world.

Why would a San Francisco-based company sue a Latin American country under a Dutch trade treaty? Last November, just after it started opergovernment is not recognizing Bechtel's standing under the treaty, insisting that the dispute be settled in the Bolivian courts.

Under the Holland-Bolivia treaty, the parties had six months to try and head off renewed privatization efforts by the government.

Activists are also lobbying the government to aggressively fight Bechtel's claim, holding the company responsible for the rate hikes that sparked the violence last spring. Bechtel has maintained that typical rates increased only 35 percent. But according to Bolivianbased activist Jim Shultz of the Democracy Center, who has reported extensively on the situation in Cochabamba, rate increases of 100 percent "were the most common," and for many people hikes were much higher. He said that families earning a minimum wage of

If Bechtel does bring its case under international law, a special tribunal operating under the rules of the World Bank's International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes will hear it. People concerned with the case, such as Bolivian activists, won't be allowed to give testimony, observe the proceedings, or see the arguments. In some

point to the North American Free Trade Agreement to illustrate the damage this type of global-investment dispute process has done to domestic pollegislation. NAFTA has been used repeatedly, and in some cases successfully, by companies trying to overturn domestic environmental laws. A Canadi-U.S. government under NAFTA in reout the potentially hazardous gasoline additive MTBE. The company claims the phaseout threatens its future profits. If the lawsuit is successful, the United States must either sue to overturn California's law or pay as much as \$970 million in damages. Critics have accused Methanex of using NAFTA to undermine the wishes of the government and people of California.

In fact, all three NAFTA countries have been sued under the treaty's investment provisions, frequently over environmental laws. After being sued by U.S.-based Ethyl Corporation over its ban on the toxic gasoline additive MMT (which also is prohibited in California), the Canadian government reversed the ban on MMT and paid Ethyl \$13 million in legal fees and damages. Such proceedings, like those under the Holland-Bolivia trade agreement, are closed to public scrutiny or input.

If the global business lobby gets its way, companies like Bechtel may not have to resort to such measures to get compensated for risky investments. Industry has long called for a global agreement that would protect their overseas ventures. In 1998 an international alliance of public interest groups exposed and managed to derail secret negotiations of such a treaty, known as the Multilateral Agreement on Investment. Since then, supporters have been pushing to revive elements of the MAI at the WTO. In the meantime, they appear to be using a piecemeal approach. For example, the Clinton administration is in the process of negotiating the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas, a NAFTA-style treaty that contains the controversial investment rules.

The AFL-CIO's Drake stresses that critics from the labor and environmental movements are not opposed to the idea of expanding international law.

just as protected and enforced as corporate rights." 💠

cases ICSID's rulings and awards are not made public even after the cases are decided. Public interest groups frequently icy making, especially environmental an company, Methanex, is suing the gard to California's decision to phase

"We just want the procedures to be open and fair," she said. "And we want human rights and labor rights to be

E-mail Daniel Zoll at dzoll@sfbg.com.



Supply and demand: In April, Bolivian residents protested a massive water-rate hike, successfully suspending the government's contract with Aguas del Tunari, a private company with ties to Bechtel, which now threatens to sue Bolivia under a trade treaty with Holland.

ating the water system in Cochabamba, Bechtel notified the Bolivian government that its International Water affiliate had been reincorporated as a Dutch company. On May 25, after protests forced AdT out of Bolivia, the company sent a six-page letter threatening to sue under the Holland-Bolivia trade agreement, asserting International Water's status as a Dutch

Some observers say the timing of the transfer of shares to Holland is suspect, given that the company's claim for damages now rests on the fact that International Water is a Dutch entity. Did Bechtel move International Water in anticipation of the troubles? Patrick Jeantet, chief operating officer of International Water, declined to discuss the company's motives, saying only that "International Water reincorporated in the Netherlands before the Cochabamba events you mentioned."

According to sources in Bolivia, the

negotiate a settlement. That deadline passed on Nov. 25.

Jeantet said in a faxed statement that the company is still seeking an amicable settlement with the government. If no settlement is reached, he said, the company will "seek the protection of Bolivian law." Bechtel has not yet sought arbitration under the Holland-Bolivia pact, he said, "although it's a possibility that hasn't been ruled out." Jeantet would not say what Bechtel intends to do next, except that the company is "exploring all of its options."

Cochabamba residents are exploring their options too. Last week the Coalition for the Defense of Water and Life held a seminar called "Water: Globalization, Privatization, and the Search for Alternatives," attended by activists from a number of countries, including the United States, Canada, and India. The coalition is seeking international support for its efforts to reconstruct its local water company and

less than \$100 a month "were told to fork over \$20 and more or have the tap shut off."

The Cochabamba fiasco has already fueled the growing global opposition to water privatization. Now it may reignite the controversy over another trend: the use of international investment agreements to challenge domestic laws and government actions.

As part of its Campaign for Global Fairness - launched after the Seattle World Trade Organization protests — the AFL-CIO is providing funding for the grassroots Cochabamba coalition. AFL-CIO public policy analyst Elizabeth Drake said Bechtel's actions show how international investment law is stacked against national governments and local communities.

"It appears that Bechtel can use any corporate identity that suits them," Drake said. "They have incredible power as a corporation to choose where they want to resolve this."

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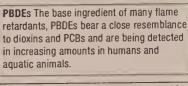


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Lead A brain-maiming neurotoxin, lead is running through the veins and accumulating in the bones of most Americans. Nearly 900,000 children between the ages of 1 and 6 are believed to suffer from lead poisoning. DDE When humans absorb the notonous pesticide DDT, it breaks

down into DDE, which causes cancer in animals - and probably in people, Banned in the United States but still used in much of the world, DDE also causes liver and kidney damage.



PCBs A now verboten class of chemicals, PCBs were used until the late 1970s in electrical generators. They disrupt hormone systems and may be responsible for an array of health problems, including cancer, diabetes, liver disease, and developmental brain damage.

Dioxins Currently under heavy scrutiny by the EPA, this class of chemical compounds -- a by-product of industrial chlorine use --- may be the most carcinogenic substances yet discovered. Hormone tweakers, dioxins are found in the fat of most humans.

### The body burden

Our toxic load gets heavier. By A. Clay Thompson

cientists call it the body burden: the amount of toxic junk trapped inside you. Industrial society, with its smokestacks, tailpipes, oil refineries, and pesticide-laden vegetables, is leaving its residue within the cells of each of us, in the form of synthetic chemical compounds and heavy metals.

The roll call of toxins pulsing through our bodies is chilling.

There's a good chance you've got a little DDE - a by-product of the condorkilling, probably carcinogenic pesticide DDT — embedded in your fatty tissue. Then there are PCBs, the now banned compounds used as coolant for electrical generators and known to cause cancer and reproductive defects in animals. Researchers say PCB contamination is "almost universal" in human fat and breast milk and in the brains and livers of small children. Dioxins too are likely lingering in your innards: studies by the federal Environmental Protection Agency suggest that all Americans have dioxins in their bodies, with I percent of the population harboring high levels of the chemical. Even trace amounts of dioxins, a group of chemical mixtures generated by industrial chlorine use, may trigger a host of serious health problems. And don't forget about that notorious old-school toxin: lead. Since the phaseout of leaded gasoline in the early 70s, levels of the brain-damaging metal have dropped in humans, but millions of U.S. children continue to suffer neurological harm due to lead.

And our toxic load may be getting

Last week local green group Communities for a Better Environment released a 16-page report calling attention to studies done on a relatively unknown class of chemicals called polybrominated diphenyl ethers, or PBDEs. The compounds, used widely as flame retardants in plastic products including computers and furniture, are showing up in increasing amounts in humans and animals across the globe. "Around the world it looks like [PBDE] levels are doubling every two years," said Greg Karras, staff scientist for Communities for a Better Environment. "It's a huge gamble with the roots of life." Total production of the chemicals has surged to 80 million pounds annually since they first hit the market in the 1960s.

Sweden, which is considering banning PBDEs, has monitored the chemicals since 1970 and is finding growing quantities in the breast milk of women in that country. Here in the United States, scientists are just starting to explore the potential hazards of the substances. A study by the California EPA earlier this year discovered PBDEs in breast-tissue samples taken from five women by Stanford University researchers. The PBDE levels --- five times those found in Sweden --- mark the highest known concentrations of the chemicals, while a concurrent look at seals living in the San Francisco Bay discovered PBDEs in their blubber.

At a molecular level PBDEs closely resemble dioxins and PCBs; scientists say they don't know exactly how the compounds are affecting the biology of humans and other animals. Researchers aren't completely sure how the substances are getting into our bodies; people are likely ingesting PBDEs with their food, as the compounds have been found in cow's milk, chicken, and fish. For workers in the chemical and plastics industries, on-the-job exposure is another possible culprit.

Biologist Peter deFur, an adjunct professor at Virginia Commonwealth University and an advisor to the U.S. EPA, fears PBDEs may act like dioxins, wreaking havoc on reproductive and hormonal processes. "They have very, very similar structures. Compounds are predictable on the basis of their chemical structures," said deFur. "If you have compounds that look alike, this is reason to investigate whether they have similar properties."

The scientist has another worry: the new compounds could act in concert with other foreign substances lingering in our bodies, boosting the damage exponentially. "They may add to or multiply their effects," deFur told us. "We don't know. We do know that PCBs and dioxins can have multiplicative interactions, not just additive."

"We don't know a lot about the toxicity" of PBDEs, said Thomas Webster, an assistant professor of environmental health at Boston University who studies dioxins. "Some of the work that has been done on the toxicology makes me worry

that they're going to turn out to be bad. They may turn out to be like dioxins and PCBs - or there may be something else about them that we don't know yet."

These fears are overblown, industry officials insist. "The chemical manufacturers are doing our own studies, and we are looking at the studies done by the scientific community. So far there is no conclusive evidence that PBDEs cause harm," said Bob Campbell, director of corporate regulatory affairs for Great Lakes Chemical Corporation, one of the world's largest manufacturers of PBDE-based flame retardants.

According to Campbell, the compounds cranked out by his company aren't as similar to known toxics as it may seem. "When you look at a three-dimensional model of the [PBDE] structure, you can see that they are much less similar to dioxins and PCBs than it appears from a twodimensional diagram," he said. That difference, he told us, might mean that PBDEs aren't as disruptive as their mole-

Campbell passed along a 1999 report by analysts at Britain's University of Surrey who found that the life-saving benefits of PBDE-laden fire retardants outweighed the potential health risks. "There are people alive today who would not be alive today if not for these products," he said.

But there are alternative formulas already on the market --- prompted at least in part by mounting pressure in Europe to prohibit PBDEs - and enviros would like to see companies like Great Lakes phase out the compounds.

Boston University's Webster is among those advocating a prohibition on the chemicals. "Some of the more recent work on PBDEs shows they seem to be interfering with thyroid hormone," he said. "And thyroid hormone controls metabolism. But probably more importantly, thyroid hormone is very key in brain development. We may not be at the levels yet where PBDEs are going to be causing brain damage to kids during development, but what you worry about is that if these things keep going up and up, we may get to the point where we see real problems." &

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### Burnout

### A union leader wants democracy for maquiladora workers. Somebody is trying to stop him. *By David Bacon*

10 BRAVO, TAMAULIPAS — Since Eliud Almaguer's home was burned to the ground in October, he and his wife, Evelia, have been moving from house to house, fearing that those who burned them out might return to finish the job. "I fear for the life of my family," he says.

Almaguer believes the fire was a payback. For the last three years he's led a campaign to organize an independent union at the Duro Bag plant, a maquiladora (assembly plant) just across the Rio Grande from Pharr, Texas. That's made him a lot of enemies, both in management and among union leaders who have long been cozy with company officials.

Living on a dirt street in a dusty Rio Bravo barrio, the Almaguers are so poor they used wood for heating and cooking. Their house was made of wooden shipping pallets, with unfolded cardboard boxes stapled onto them for walls. Modest as it was, the home was broken into at least twice prior to the fire, Almaguer says. "I think they were looking for union documents, since I don't have anything worth stealing."

On the night of the fire, neighbors say they saw a man in a blue T-shirt fleeing the scene just before flames engulfed the small dwelling. When they called the police to report the blaze, they were told that "if it's Eliud's, then let it burn," Almaguer says. Police refused to take his statement or even conduct an investigation. So far, no culprits have been apprehended. Police did not return Bay Guardian requests for comment.

The Rio Bravo organizing battle represents one of the most important early tests of Mexican president Vicente Fox's commitment to democracy. This challenge comes not from the country's former governing party, the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), which lost control of the presidency last July for the first time in 71 years; it comes from Almaguer and his coworkers, who've thrown a spotlight on the denial of their right to form independent unions, and thereby raise wages, on the border.

The media in both Mexico and the United States have greeted the election of Fox, the candidate of the National Action Party (PAN), as a triumph for democracy. But on the ground, Mexican workers are not likely to experience a new democratic opening. Fox, a former Coca-Cola executive, is even more probusiness than the old PRI, and his party is just as wedded to the policy of keeping wages low to encourage foreign investment — especially in maquiladoras on the border. The top positions in the new Fox cabinet, especially those governing the economy, are filled with business executives.

And in states like Baja California, where

PAN has held power for a decade, the party has fought efforts to organize independent unions. Strikes in Tijuana have been broken and court orders ignored. Duro workers are likely to suffer the same hard hand.

#### **Duro** means tough

The Kentucky-based Duro Corporation, which operates seven U.S. plants, produces for Hallmark Expressions, Neiman Marcus and other upscale clients. In the spring of 1998, Almaguer, a stocky labor activist in his 30s, took a job at Duro's Rio Bravo factory, which churns out chichi paper bags, sold for a buck apiece at suburban mall gift shoppes.

Working conditions were dismal. Almaguer says he saw people lose fingers in machines. Safety guards, he claims, were removed from the rollers that imprint designs on the paper lining. Solvent containers didn't carry proper danger warnings, Almaguer recalls, and workers were given simple dust masks, useless for filtering out toxic chemical fumes. "In terms of safety, well, there just wasn't any," he says bitterly.

Wages average 320 pesos (about \$35) a week — "worse than any in the region," Almaguer says. "People were willing to work at bad-paying jobs. But not under those conditions."

Duro's vice president of manufacturing, Bill Forstrom, says wages start at 60 pesos a day (about six dollars). "We're in Mexico to take advantage of inexpensive labor," he explains. A gallon of milk in the supermarket costs 20 pesos — a third of a day's work. Says Consuelo Moreno, a Duro worker, "My daughter had to drop out of school this year because we didn't have the money for her to continue."

And the workers' union, a sección (the Mexican term for local) of the Paper, Cardboard, and Wood Industry Union, was part of the problem: it's part of the Confederation of Mexican Workers (CTM) — which has been a pillar of support for the country's ruling bureaucracy since the 1940s.

Facing a protracted conflict with Duro and their own union, Almaguer's coworkers expelled their general secretary, Jose Angel Garcia Garces, who was viewed as too close to company managers. They chose Almaguer — a veteran of brutal labor conflicts, including a stint at Sony, where workers were beaten in front of factory gates in 1995 — as their new leader.

#### The company's union

The struggle began when workers tried to enforce their union local's protection contract, an agreement in which a company pays union leaders to guarantee labor peace. Almaguer and workers brought repeated grievances to the plant's human-relations manager, Alejandro de

la Rosa. "We'd take [our complaints] to his office, and he'd throw us out," Almaguer says.

Almaguer and the union committee warned their leaders in Mexico City that they were thinking of striking to enforce compliance. But instead of backing them up, Almaguer recalls, union leaders told him that "I should just negotiate with the company over my own personal benefits."

Then, in October 1999, the company fired him. The union in Mexico City cooperated, invoking the exclusion clause, used by pro-company union officials to get rid of troublemakers by revoking their union membership. Police and guards enforced the firing. But after three days of turmoil, workers forced the company and the union to continue recognizing Almaguer as the sección's general secretary.

In April workers walked off the job to demand changes, and 150 were fired. Two months later, the CTM signed a new agreement with the company, ignoring workers' demands for basic improvements, such as safety shoes, work clothes, and a company doctor on the premises.

Duro workers began organizing an independent union in response. "In the past the company was always able to buy off our union leaders," explains Moreno. "We can only change things if we have a union the company can't control."

De la Rosa didn't return phone calls for this story, but he alleged in Rio Bravo's local newspaper, El Bravo, that "the workers are protesting things that aren't our responsibility."

Almaguer says he and his family have been repeatedly threatened since he took union office. He says one person followed his family and made threats, saying he'd been paid to do so by management. A second time, the same individual came to their home at night, offering money.

"They told me to slow down and tell the workers not to be against the paperworkers union and Duro or else I would pay the consequences. That same night they came back at 1:00 a.m. and scared my daughter by knocking and kicking the door, trying to open it," Almaguer recalls.

Forstrom says only a minority of the plant's workers are involved in the protests. Although he admits that some workers have been injured, he claims they've taken the guards off the machines themselves. He says conditions are better in Rio Bravo than at some of the company's U.S. plants.

#### The battle for control

Both Mexican and U.S. union activists see Duro as a symbol of a much wider struggle, as do the maquiladora owners and their supporters. They all agree there is more at stake here than a single union in a single plant.

Duro workers have had help from the north to even the odds - the San Antonio, Texas-based Coalition for Justice in the Maquiladoras, a group of unions, churches, and community organizations from the U.S., Mexico, and Canada. Coalition activists helped workers follow Tamaulipas's governor, Tomas Yarrington, as he made appearances during the national election campaign last spring, saying they wouldn't let up until the state labor board granted the union legal recognition. Coalition members were arrested with the strikers and mobilized a flood of letters and faxes to Yarrington and company officials.

Help has also come from Mexico's new independent labor federation, the National Union of Workers (UNT), based in Mexico City. The UNT organized a protest last August, attracting hundreds of advocates of independent unionism from Mexico and the U.S. Under the pressure, the Tamaulipas labor board finally gave in, granting the Duro union legal status in late August.

Instead of changing the conditions that provoked the rebellion, border employers and CTM union leaders accused Almaguer and the Duro workers of being pawns manipulated by U.S. unions. El Bravo referred to coalition director Marta Ojeda as a professional agitator, and it accused Almaguer of being paid to organize the work stoppage. Tamaulipas CTM leader Leocadio Mendoza Reyes accused Ojeda of mounting a "dirty war" against

the CTM to "destabilize" the maquiladoras and scare companies into relocating jobs to the U.S.

Ojeda, a Mexican citizen, says the attacks on her solidarity efforts "come from fear — the people who have benefited from this system are losing control."

UNT General Secretary Francisco Hernandez Juarez believes workers will organize more independent unions, especially if Duro workers win a better contract with higher wages. Duro is just one of 3,450 foreign-owned Mexican factories, which employ over 1.2 million Mexican workers, according to the National Association of Maquiladoras. Most of these workers belong to unions. But, as at Duro, these organizations are not run by workers. The UNT estimates that only 50,000 of the country's 650,000 union contracts are actually negotiated with worker participation.

"The rest are simply protection agreements," says UNT vice president Jose Luis Hernandez. "The people who benefit from these contracts are a kind of mafia. To get rid of them is going to require a virtual war."

And if workers are successful in that war — if more of them run their own unions, negotiate their own contracts, and raise wages — it will be very costly to the foreign corporations operating maquiladoras all along the border. ❖

David Bacon is a photojournalist and an associate editor for Pacific News Service.



In solidarity: Martha Ojeda, director of the Texas-based Coalition for Justice in the Maquiladoras, has been the main U.S. organizer supporting an independent union for Mexican Duro factory workers. For her efforts, government-affiliated unions and maquiladora owners have denounced her as a "terrorist."

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gifts for good causes

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s the holiday season descends upon the Bay Area, I refuse to succumb to the bitter repartee so popular in my generation about my favorite time of year. I truly find it hard to believe that so many of my friends hate the holidays. Granted, the media bombards us with tons of Christmas programming, while everywhere we turn, retailers pimp their products for a piece of shiny plastic.

But in spite of the disheartening consumerism of the holiday season, I prefer remembering the root of all the hustle and bustle and gift buying. Celebrating the spirit of the holidays means celebrating the bonds we share with our friends and family. If you choose to exchange presents, combat the ill will by shopping conscientiously and giving a gift that benefits a good cause. Our guide suggests a variety of ideas that will delight your loved ones and give you peace of mind, since the

proceeds benefit local and global charities. If you are overwhelmed with the options, most organizations offer gift certificates, too.

#### Local causes

Under One Roof is a nonprofit gift shop that donates all its revenue to dozens of AIDS service organizations. Since its opening in 1990, the shop has raised more than \$6.7 million for the fight against AIDS. The merchandise includes items for the home, books and music, and bath and body goodies. Among the choice items is a Frank Lloyd Wright magazine rack (\$65). Looking for a CD of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus? You'll find all of them here (\$15.98 each). For dessert after your holiday dinner, enjoy some Chocoholics Body Frosting (\$7) or Bone Suckin' Sauce (\$6). Mon.-Sat., 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Sun. 11 a.m.-9 p.m., 549 Castro, S.F. (415) 503-2300, www.underoneroof.org.

candles (\$10), Mission District mural postcards (\$1), mural history books (\$19.95-\$29.95) and maps to murals located throughout the Mission (\$1,50). Posters, T-shirts, and art supplies are also for sale. They even have

The Precita Eyes Community Art

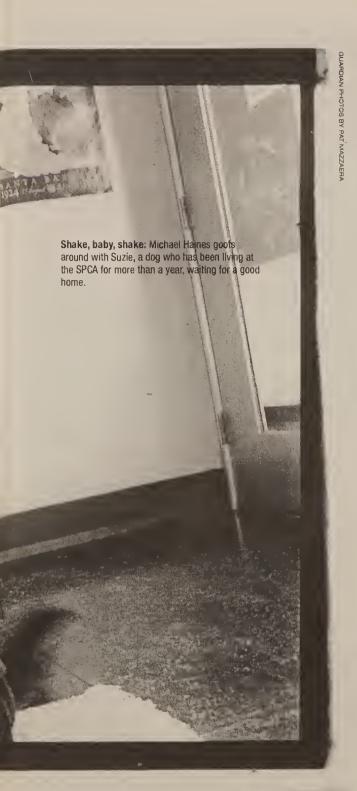
Store sells unique gifts such as mural

posters signed by the artist who designed Santana's album covers, Mike Rios (\$25-\$45). All proceeds go to support the community programs of the Precita Eyes Mural Arts and Visitors Center, including the toddler and urban outh art classes. Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sun., noon-4 p.m., 2981 24th St., S.F. (415) 285-2287, www.precitaeyes.org.

About-Face is a media literacy organization run by a dedicated group of volunteers who are frustrated with the media's negative portrayals of women and the destructive consequences this has on the lives of girls and women.

Support About-Face by purchasing the stuff they have for sale on their Web site: buttons (Goddesses Have Hips, etc., \$1), bumper stickers (Value Your Mind and Your Body, etc., \$2), T-shirts (\$20), posters (Female Merit Badges, etc., \$15-\$20), postcard sets (\$7-\$10), or a Margaret Doll sporting a T-shirt that reads, "Someday a woman will be president!" (\$29.95). P.O. Box 77665, S.F. (415) 436-0212, www.aboutface.org.

The gift of education always makes a thoughtful present. Sign a friend or partner up for a class or event at the Harvey Milk Institute, or give him or her a gift certificate. The Harvey Milk Institute is a nonprofit community-based institution that offers noncredit courses dealing with a broad range of subjects related to sexual identity, race, class, and gender. Class fees benefit the tuition-reduction program for low-income students, their free classes for



youth program, their internship training program, and costs for paying scholars and instructional artists throughout the year. Some classes offered this fall were Erotic Massage (\$55), Gender and Genre: An Intro to Trans Community and Culture (\$75), Self-Defense for Women (\$55-\$150), and Lillith and Other Tramps: A Romp Through Jewish Folktales (\$100). Call any time of the day or week. 584 Castro, PMB 451, S.F. (415) 552-7200, www .harveymilk.org.

#### **Animal lovers**

The San Francisco SPCA offers a selection of gifts for the pet lovers on your list, including adorable holiday cards, videos, books, posters, T-shirts, and sweatshirts. All profits save the lives of animals rescued by this no-kill shelter. The cards feature rehabilitated animals who are now cherished pets (12 "Season's Greetings" cards for \$13.95).

Posters by cat artist and writer Missy Dizick are available for \$12.50. And children will enjoy reading Zak the One-of-a-Kind Dog (\$14.95). Daily, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Oct.-April; 11 a.m.-7 p.m., May-Sept., 2500 16th St., S.F. (415) 554-3000 or 1-800-211-7722, www.sfspca.org.

The Berkeley and East Bay Humane Society presents a special photo opportunity for you and your pet(s), "Paws with Santa." Have your pet's photograph taken with Santa Claus Fri/15-Sat/16, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. and Sun/17, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at 1226 Solano Avenue in Berkeley (Polaroids \$5, buttons \$8, digital pictures \$5, with your own camera \$3, and additional pets in photo \$1 each). Have a friend who wants a cat, but the landlord says no way? Sponsor a pet at the shelter in his or her name in whatever monetary amount you choose. Every dollar helps the animals rescued and nurtured at this no-kill facility. Mon .-

#### **Holiday fair**

Responsible shopping options

hrist knows it's tough to get through the holidays without greasing the Man's white corporate palm. With Gaps, Blockbusters, and Starbucks all around you, shopping for all of your loved ones responsibly and without pandering to the lowest chain store denominator can be trickier than crossing Korea's mine-filled 58th Parallel DMZ in lead boots. Well, we here at the Bay Guardian would like to give you some tips on consuming with a conscience, ones you might not find in the other fish-wrap, cat box-lining publications that make this a "two-newspaper" town. Ha!

The following are resources and retailers that will help you help the fair-trade economy both locally and globally.

The Body Shop The international chain of boutiques sell products for ... well, the body, of course! In addition to making you smell and feel good, the Body Shop is dedicated to responsible retailing. You can hardly sneeze in this city without hitting one: there are six locations, too many to list here, so open up a Yeller Pages or go to its Web site to see which one's closest to you. www .bodyshop.com.

Casa Bonampak A member of the Fair Trade Federation (see below), Casa Bonampak is dedicated to fair trade with artists from Latin America. Visit its Web site, where you can buy everything from Day of the Dead figures to fair-trade coffee to mouse pads. 3331 24th St., S.F. (415) 642-4079, www.casabonampak.com.

Global Exchange G.E. (kinda ironic, eh?) was founded in 1988 with the purpose of raising awareness about fair trade. It operates two craft stores, one on each side of the bay, and guarantees that craftspeople get 15 to 30 percent of the retail price of their wares. And if you're really lazy or agoraphobic or just like to bandy about the ol' plastic online, you can shop on its Web site. 4018 24th St., S.F. (415) 648-8068; 2840 College, Berk. (510) 548-0370; www.globalexchange.org.

Green World Mercantile Here you can find a wide variety of environmentally sound and fair trade-friendly products. Stop by its Web site and shop online. 2340 Polk, S.F. (415) 771-5717, www.greenworldmercantile.com.

Fair Trade Federation FTF is an association of fair-trade wholesalers, retailers, and producers whose members are committed to providing fair wages and good employment opportunities to economically disadvantaged artisans and farmers worldwide. At its Web site you can shop online or browse through a list of fair trade-friendly retailers in the Bay Area and elsewhere. www.fair-

International Federation for Alternative Trade The original fair-trade organization, IFAT has grown into a global network of 154 FTOs in 49 countries. Its mission is to improve the livelihoods and well-being of disadvantaged people in developing countries and to change the unfair structures of international trade. You can join the cause by becoming a member or just learning more about fair trade through IFAT's Web site. www.ifat.org.

Sales Exchange for Refugee Rehabilitation Vocation This nonprofit organization has been acting on behalf of fair trade for almost a half century now, since long before recent treaties made the idea of thwarting multinational corporations popular. SERRV works in more than 40 countries, providing supplemental livelihoods for craftspeople all over the world. It's got lots of holiday gift options available, too. Check out its online catalog. www.serrv.org.

Fri., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m., 2700 Ninth St., Berk. (510) 845-7735, www.behumane.org.

#### **Music lovers**

Alice @ 97.3FM is donating all of the proceeds from the sale of its latest compilation, This Is Alice Music, Volume 4, to breast cancer research. If you have a friend who listens to Alice 24-7, you can't go wrong stuffing a stocking with this cool CD (\$14-\$16). A few of the artists featured are Matchbox Twenty, Aimee Mann, Sarah McLachlan, and Third Eye Blind, Don't delay purchasing this gem. Quantities are limited, since it is a special edition CD, so call ahead before visiting Rasputin, Tower, Virgin, and the Wherehouse. Alice @ 97.3, One Embarcadero Center, Suite 3200, S.F. 1-800-400-3697, www.radioalice.com.

This year the Huckleberry Youth House cooked up a toe-tapping Huckleberry House 30th Anniversary Jam CD. Proceeds benefit services the home provides for homeless, runaway, and other at-risk youth in the Bay Area. The compilation includes artists like the Dave Matthews Band, Bonnie Raitt, Counting Crows, and Cowboy Junkies (\$10 plus tax). Call the administrative office to order. Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m., 3310 Geary, S.F. (415) 668-2622, ext. 210, www.huckleberryyouth.org.

#### Go global

"Concept gifts," such as the Seva Foundation's Gifts of Service, are just as special as tangible ones. The Seva Foundation, a Berkeley-based nonprofit organization, offers you the opportunity to assist global causes. You can sponsor a practical service in the name of a friend or family member. Your \$50, \$100, or \$500 Gift of Service will be used for potable water systems and solar electrification of a rural clinic in Chiapas, midwifery training and women's education in Guatemala, equipment for diabetic wellness centers on several Native American reservation sites, grants for Native American organizations to fund needed services in their communities, or cataract surgery for a Tibetan nomad or farmer. Tshirts and hats are also available. Mon .-Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m., 1786 Fifth St., Berk. 1-800-223-7382,



Art objects: Edna Orranti (left) and J. Garcia pose with their wares at Precita Eyes, a community arts center in the Mission that offers art classes for urban youth.

#### **Online charity malls**

www.seva.org.

If your little sister absolutely needs those designer shoes she saw last week, shop at the online charity malls, where a portion of the sale price goes to the charity of your choice. A lot of retailers participate in this program, but only online, so don't neglect the opportunity to tug on their greedy little purse

strings for a charitable contribution. Research each site carefully to find your favorite retailer and charity; then read the fine print, which lists exactly what percentage of the sale will be donated to your chosen cause. Here are a few to check out: www.CharityCounts.com; www.iGive.com; www.GreaterGood.com; www.4Charity.com. 🌣



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# The gift of good karma

Worthy donations for the holidays. By Steve Robles

et's face it. A good percentage of San Francisco culture today exists in a nice, tidy bubble of filthy, wretched excess. Take a stroll through North Beach and you'll find a subsociety of overpaid professionals whose biggest stress is trying not to get extra-virgin olive

oil on their StarTac. This is Willie's wet dream, ladies and gents, and he's certainly worked hard to bring it to life.

Of course, there's another subculture here in the city — one whose denizens don't have to worry about the Cellular One bill. Instead, they

worry about where they'll be sleeping tomorrow or next week or next month, how they'll eat or get health care or take care of their families, how they'll stop the screaming, sweaty hallucinations that come when the stash is tapped or how they'll stop the urge to use in the first place.

For those of you in the former category, it's a waste of time to feel guilty, and I won't try to instill this sense within you. Maybe you've spent countless catatonic hours before that glowing monitor and sacrificed a social/romantic life and actually earned that StarTac and that bruschetta. Good for you.

But ponder this for a moment: the society in which we exist balances upon a fulcrum point of inequity. Maybe you can't muster the wherewithal to empathize with the less fortunate who surround you or even hound you when you go to shop in the Mission or the Haight. And I won't ask you to sympathize. But, my friend, the more they suffer, the bigger the threat to your overvalued house of cards. Because once the chasm between the haves and the have-nots grows to an obscene level, it will swallow those on both sides. It won't matter whether your most valuable possession is a G4 or a shopping cart.

There is always something you can do: give. It's not that hard, and I've even thrown together some options for ya to help out without even thinking about it. Some are even tax deductible, fer fuck's sake! And I won't bug you about yolunteerism, or buying items to donate, or any of that crap (good as those ideas are). No siree, Bob. You can just throw money in these directions, and that'll be plenty fine.

Of course, there's no hiding the Bay Guardian agenda here, and I wouldn't even try. We've picked from the cream of our pet causes, the things we feel affect Bay Area residents the most; causes like homelessness, eviction, and health care dominate here, as they should. I also hasten to add that readers should consider supporting the causes chosen for the Bay Guardian Community Fund 2001, described on page 59.

No gift beats the gift of good karma, baby — especially at a time when so many have so much in the way of material possessions. Here are some worthy causes that could use some extra help during the holidays — give in your own name, of in the name of somebody you love.

Coalition on Homelessness I don't know if you noticed, but there are a handful or so of homeless in this little burg. And, dammit, try as he might, our brave mayor doesn't seem to be able to do much about it. But you can, by giving to COH.

COH was organized in 1987, with the aim of getting the underprivileged involved in both the design and critique of public policy and nonprofit services that result in permanent solutions to poverty. Its driving force is low-income and homeless people working in every aspect of the organization, from the volunteers to the staff and leadership body.

This invaluable group of people forms one of the Bay Guardian's fa-

vorite nonprofit organizations, one whose relevance has only increased over the years. Your charitable dollars could hardly be better spent, and besides, it's tax deductible. Also, if you donate more than \$10 in somebody else's name, COH will send that person a handsome Christmas card announcing your immeasurable generosity. Or you can buy this special someone The View From Here, which is COH's anthology of poetry, articles, and art culled from a decade's worth of its ubiquitous Street Sheet newspaper. 468 Turk, S.F. (415) 346-3740, www.sfo.com/~coh.

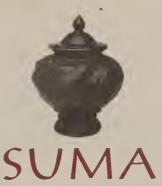
San Francisco Tenants Union There are probably more eviction notices around the city than there are condoms in the Lincoln bedroom. Since there is strength in numbers, SFTU is an invaluable asset in our gentrified housing market. They've been the area's leading advocate for tenants since 1971 and are completely membership-supported. And you never know when you (yes, you, not just the poor, unfortunate slob next to you) might need this worthy organization, so a donation could spell instant karma.

"A membership would be a great gift for someone," offers SFTU's Ted Gullickson. Membership costs \$35, and with it comes a nifty handbook detailing SFTU's services. You can also buy a really cool T-shirt that bears their logo and some cool Monopoly-style artwork. These go for \$20, which directly helps the union help its members. Unfortunately, these donations are not tax deductible, but we're not talking triple-digit action here, so ... 558 Capp, S. F. (415) 282-6622, www.sftu.org.

**Eviction Defense Collaborative** This is another great resource for those who are threatened with eviction and are in need of assistance. Concentrating on temporary assistance and one-time loans, this worthy cause has been beleaguered by budget cuts by Herr Brown's "crack" team on the Board of Supervisors, and next year's funding is in question. So in other words, this is a yery good cause that would really benefit by the creaking open of your wallet, thank you very much. And yes, any donation to this nonprofit organization is completely tax deductible, ya skinflint. Just kidding. 942 Market, Suite 312, S.F. (415) 286-9586.

Haight Ashbury Free Medical Clinics Forget for a second the slightly confusing fact that this fountain of profoundly good energy is not actually on Ashbury; it's on Clayton. The thing to remember is that HAFMC has been serving the community since Dr. David Smith established it in 1967, making it the first clinic of its kind in the United States. Every year 14,000 people receive physical and mental health

Continued on page 30



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Professor Chris Kanios, Professor of Torts and Mediation will be discussing the opening of New College's Institute for Mediation and Justice

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### gifts for good causes

#### **Donations**

From page 29

care and substance abuse treatment here. Make that 14,001 - within the last year, I've been in the position of needing to rely on HAFMC's services, and I can personally attest to the quality of their care and the dedication of their staff.

Whether or not you'll ever need to ask for their help, HAFMC is a superlative cause to support, and you're sure to know that your dollar will actually help genuine human beings in genuine need. Also, this is another great gift for someone in your sphere of influence: the clinic will even help out by letting your recipient know of the generosity afforded on their behalf. And they don't even need to know that it's tax deductible. 558 Clayton, S.F. (415) 487-5632, www.hafci.org

Berkeley Free Clinic The BFC has been in business almost as long as HAFMC and also provides mental, physical, and drug abuse care. Also, the Gay Men's Health Collective provides a drop-in STD clinic for men that offers both symptomatic and routine testing and treatment. But wait ... that's not all! The dental section of BFC offers the only totally free dental clinic in northern California, providing simple extractions and fillings (and sometimes cleanings) for adults, without charge or eligibility limitations. Holy enamel, Batman!

As with the HAFMC, donations can be made in your giftee's name, and upon request the BFC will notify said human that a donation has been made in his/her name. Yes, Virginia, this too is tax deductible. 2339 Durant, Berk. (510) 548-2570, www.users .lanminds.com/~bfc.

Survive AIDS This group was formerly known as ACT UP Golden Gate but decided to break off of that organization and run away as fast as it could once ACT UP went insane and began to blather about conspiracy theories and nonsense that would make Oliver Stone's head explode. A network of activists, advocates, and patients, S.A.'s purpose is simple: to help keep people with AIDS alive and to help them sustain a quality of life that is worth living for.

Currently, S.A. is asking that patients who rely on medical marijuana for relief boycott ACT UP's pot clubs, and it offers alternative clubs on its Web site, www.surviveaids.org. 584 Castro, PMB 542, S.F. (415) 252-9200.

Californians for Compassionate Use This amazing organization was behind that amazing bit o' legislation we like to refer to as Proposition 215. And every year since California voters passed 215, it's led the fight against asshole Sen. John Vasconcellos's efforts to thwart, with legislation that would nullify 215, the will of the very people he serves.

But funding has been scarce for this pivotal group since the wellpublicized push for 215, so your dollars would be very welcome. "We

do lobbying directly, and we also farm for the patients that we serve, so we make every dime count here," says CFCU's John Entwistle (no, not the bass player for The Who). Donations to CFCU aren't tax deductible, but the deposit into your karmic 401(k) will more than make up for it. 3745 17th St., S.F. (707) 994-1901, www.marijuana.org 🌣

#### **Body movin'**

A guide to holiday volunteerism

aving a little bit of trouble getting into the spirit of the holidays? Feeling that if one more evil tentacle of capitalism reaches out for you you'll shove a dreidel one more evil tentacle of capitalism reaches out for you you in our one more evil tentacle of capitalism reaches out for you you media-constructed realiup a retail Santa's ass? Well, it's time to escape your media-constructed realiup a retail Santa's ass? ty tunnel and embrace what the holidays should be about - basically, suspending your typical selfish asshole ways and doing good stuff for people.

Somehow, it both feels better and seems more profound to do good stuff for total strangers. (Hey, I don't make the rules: I just cower before them.) Maybe it's because the people you know are total ingrates. Nah, it's probably because you don't have to do good stuff for strangers.

Luckily, there are actual organizations that will indulge your need to counteract every evil thing you've done this year with a few good deeds. Wanna hear about 'em? Here you go ...

A great resource for finding out where to pull up yer sleeves and help out is the Volunteer Center of San Francisco. This information clearinghouse serves organizations in need of volunteers and donations. You can check out its comprehensive web site, www.vcsf.org, to find out about the center, how to volunteer, how to obtain nonprofit memberships, and how to get involved in its outreach program. 1675 California, S.F. (415) 982-8999.

Y'all East Bay folks can do the same by getting in touch with Community Impact. Though it's based in Palo Alto, this nonprofit volunteer organization engineers projects throughout the Bay Area. The group's philosophy is to make community service easy and attractive by creating fun projects that can be finished in the span of a day. This year, C.I. has a heapin' helpin' o' holiday projects throughout the East Bay, so check out its web site at www.communityimpact.org to get all the details. 3921 East Bayshore Rd., Palo Alto. (650) 965-0242.

While stumbling around the Internet, I came upon a nifty li'l web site called CB's Bay Area Volunteer Information Center at www.volunteerinfo.org. I dunno who CB is, but she definitely wants you to know that she's prettier than the picture provided on the site. We'll cut her some slack, as only someone possessed of deep beauty would go through so much trouble to provide resources on volunteering, both in our neck of the woods and beyond. You can check out oodles of opportunities, and she's got a mighty list of organizations that could use your help.

There are lots of forms of holiday service you can engage in, but few are as immediately gratifying as volunteering at a food bank. Addressing the very issue of survival during the holidays cuts to the core of what about them goes beyond capitalist and religious manipulation --- that is, expressing good will toward fellow human beings. Nothing puts a PS2 into perspective like seeing someone who's genuinely grateful to have something to eat at a time when it's easiest to take so much for granted. OK, now I'm all mushy, you'll have to

That's better. So, if you'd like to get the singular buzz that comes from slapping a slab of hot turkey and gravy onto the plate of someone whose nutritional intake consisted of pizza crust the day before, we suggest giving the San Francisco Food Bank a call. This venerable operation distributes more than 12 million pounds of food a year to those who need it. If you'd like to find out more about SFFB and how you can get off your ass and help fight the good fight, check out its web site at www.sffoodbank.org. 900 Pennsylvania, S.F. (415) 282-1900.



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Those of you across the bay can contact the Alameda County Community Food Bank to donate your time and energy toward feeding people. The folks there do the same great work as those at the SFFB, only they don't have as many cloudy, foggy days to contend with. 700 Murmansk, Oakl. (510) 834-3663, www.accfb.org.

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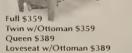


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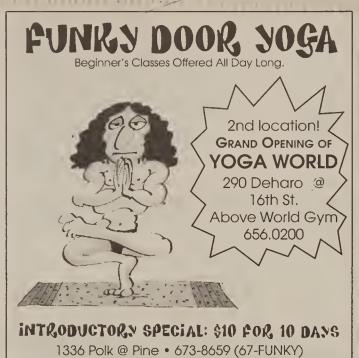


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### ask isadora

### A personal nlea

Q: I have not one but two fast-moving deadly cancers, and in spite of chemotherapy I am not in remission. I am divorced, 65, without a lover, no longer able to practice my profession. I like a lot of romance — good conversation, cuddling, candles, music, etc. — to have a really good time in bed, so hiring a sex worker for an hour does not seem viable. I'd like someone with whom I could have more than sex — a full and mutually satisfying relationship. When I found out I had cancers, I overindulged in ice cream (better than booze or drugs), so I look like the Michelin Man. After paying my medical bills, I am basically broke. How do I find some appropriate lady? I am not into cheating anyone by letting her believe I am going to last very much longer. I am going downhill. I'd like to have a best friend/lover/soul mate between now and my death. Believe it or not, my morale is excellent, and I am into exchanging jokes on the Internet and person to person. Looks aren't important; the interior landscape is, especially a good heart.

A: With a bit of editing, your letter to me would make an excellent personal ad in the papers or on the Net, telling it like it is. You have nothing to lose. Run it. I wish you very good hick.

Q: I have a question I am too embarrassed to ask my doctor. My husband and I enjoy oral sex, but every time I swallow, within a few hours I'll get bad stomach cramps and a case of the runs. Why? Any suggestions other than stopping the practice?

A: You are probably having a reaction to something your husband ate. If you have no known food sensitivities, it could be to the protein of the semen itself. You could ask him to modify his diet or wear a condom for oral sex, or you could spit it out instead of swallowing.

Q: When I was in the military several years ago in England, this guy took a weekend trip to France. When he got back, he had a case of "the blue balls." Could you please tell us how he got this? Is this an infection, or just what is the condition?

A: You've been worrying about this for several years? I'm happy to put your mind at ease. In American vernacular, "blue balls" means the painful condition of a congested pelvic area due to much sexual excitement without release. It goes away eventually. Women can get it too, only the term "blue ovaries" has never enjoyed much popularity. Of course, since we are talking about a slang term, there is always the possibility that it means something else in England or France.

Q: I am in a relationship with a man who is ineffective and unskilled sexually. Past attempts at discussing this have been unfruitful. What advice do you have for talking with him about the situation so that he does not become defensive?

A: First of all, begin a discussion about improving your mutual sex life (rather than a lecture on what he does wrong) and ask him what he would like done differently. Then suggest that you might really enjoy "a lighter touch" or "more forceful thrusting" or, as specifically as you can, what you would like different. Think about taking a massage course together to learn more sensitive touching proficiency or watching sexual education videos to facilitate discussion. Anyone can learn new techniques, but he is far more likely to be motivated to do that if you let him know what you would like, rather than what he does that's wrong, and demonstrate your eagerness to make some changes on his behalf as well.

Q: I am a 65-year-old male. I have noticed lately that when I ejaculate, there is not as much sperm as a year ago. Is there anything wrong with me, or is this a process of old age? Thank you.

A: You can't see the sperm; those fellows are microscopic. Semen production does slow with age, as does the force with which it's expelled. Try drinking more fluids and see if that makes a difference in your ejaculate volume.

Q: Some time ago my partner asked me about a threesome — us and a woman — and everything worked out fine. The female was a longtime friend of mine, and I would like not to invite her back into our bedroom. We are a mature couple who would rather not go into a club. The phone lines are extremely expensive. What other resources are there for finding a female partner?

A: Personal ads, the Internet, swingers conventions, groups concerned with nontraditional relationships such as polyamorists, swing party houses, and everyday social doings. Keep an open mind and an open eye. 💠

Isadora Alman is a licensed marriage counselor and a board-certified sexologist. You can reach her online at her Sexuality Forum (www.askisadora.com) or by writing to her care of the Bay Guardian, 520 Hampshire, S.F., CA 94110. Alas, she cannot answer questions individually.









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### techsploitation

### Retire?

took a break from thinking about unionizing dot-coms this week - but don't worry, I'll get back to it. This was one of those weeks where I wanted to take a break from everything, including having a brain that's reality-compatible.

I feel like I'm surrounded by free-floating economic anxiety. Part of this, no doubt, is coming from the fact that I'm obsessively reading about Bay Area electricity shortages, Internet industry layoffs, and the early stages of union-busting at Amazon.com. But part of it is because I'm not just reading about it. Many of my friends have been laid off from their dot-com jobs, or been demoted, or had their salaries slashed. People who would have turned up their noses at a 50K annual income last year are now scrabbling to get less than that by contracting, freelancing, and hustling.

Meanwhile, Charles and I managed to work ourselves up into a paranoid froth over our nonexistent retirement funds. I have a grand total of 500 bucks in my IRA, which I just opened last year. Charles reported that he puts a trivial amount of cash into his retirement account per year. But both of us have friends — still shakily employed in various dot-com jobs — who pack more than \$1,500 per month into their company's lucrative 401(k) plans. People in their early 20s are already planning their retirement, but Charles and I (both born in the fine year 1969) are planning our lives with the idea that we'll never

We realized that we would probably be retiring into poverty if we stopped working. "Think about it," I said darkly, "we won't have any social security or Medicare. We're writers, and we haven't really made enough money to save up for a nice house or health care. We'll be living in a fucking trailer in Montana Charles began speculating about the environment: "And we'll have skimmed off the ozone layer, and the planet will be getting hotter, and everyone will be cancer-ridden." I finished up for him: "And since we'll have no health care, and we'll be old, we'll be the ones full of cancer who have to keep working until we die.'

Charles started making plans for how we'd begin saving money, stop going out to dinner, put more cash into our IRAs. And I shrugged off his sugges tions — for a utopian, I can be pretty fatalistic. I have hope for the distant future, but not the immediate one. I guess I get that from watching too much Star Trek, where the 21st and 22nd centuries are represented as a postapocalyptic Middle Ages, complete with witch hunts and impoverished peasants and crazed monarchs.

Needless to say, I was in a pretty foul mood when Ed invited me to the Collabnet holiday party at San Francisco's swanky new bobo bar, Sno Drift. What the hell, I thought to myself. Maybe I'd never be able to retire, but at least I'd have high-tech company parties to keep me drunk in the meantime. Besides, Collabnet is one of those groovy new open-source companies whose exploits I'd been following (and writing about) in the news. They're fighting the good fight, bringing Linux to places like Sun, a corporate giant famous for its investment in proprietary software.

After Ed had fussed over his outfit for what seemed to be a 24-hour period he finally decided on a fuzzy red skirt and patent leather corset — he and Jesse and I headed out to schmooze and booze with the open-source geeks. "Will there be engineers there?" I asked Ed fretfully, fearing a party full of marketing types whose jobs I couldn't fathom. "I think so," Ed responded unhelpfully.

As soon as we walked in the door, it was clear that Collabnet doesn't just represent the future of software production. It also represents the future of Internet companies generally, with their "corrected" expectations about the economic future in the wake of the Nasdaq dip and V.C. pullout. Unlike one of those notorious, psychotically expensive dot-com parties packed with servants bearing champagne or shucking mounds of raw oysters onto tubs of ice, this dot-net shindig looked like your standard-issue office party. Sure, there were DJs (including the ravishing Laura, spouse of Collabnet CTO and Apache poster boy Brian), and chocolate delicacies to eat, and the crucial free drinks. But it wasn't

It felt like a genuine San Francisco party, not some kind of Hollywood recreation of Caligula's Rome. Even Last Gasp honcho Ron Turner came with his lovely retinue, promptly charming everyone into not asking how he'd found out about the party. And Susie was there, talking to a cute boy named Dan, who revealed to me later that he owns the URL milk.com. I even got to bond with the dashing engineer Manoj, who confessed that he would rather not code for users, or clients, or even for hardware. "Actually, I think I should just be pure energy," he proclaimed grandly. "Then I could code from within the pattern buffer of a transporter device." My kind of geek.

As we left the party, I allowed myself to wonder, hopefully, if someday things might be normal again — no more economic bubbles and real estate bubbles, accompanied by endless layoffs and evictions. Then I went to bed, and dreamed all night about spaceships, 💠

Annalce Newitz (utopian@techsploitation.com) is a surly media nerd who agrees with Paul that writers never retire. Her column also appears in Metro, San Jose's weekly newspaper.



#### culture shocked

by katharine mieszkowski

### Old sex

am lying belly down in sawdust and dirt on the floor of a barn in Vallejo. I seek cover behind a slimy metal culvert as volleys of shots whiz by at 200 miles an hour. I'm fresh meat for a half-dozen armed figures wearing Darth Vader-like masks — the Enemy — who lurk less than 20 yards away in the gloom. It's your basic kill-or-be-killed Sunday-afternoon militaristic fantasy. The object: wipe them out with my own pumping weapon before they take me down.

It hurts to have this much fun. By tonight I will have a saucer-size bruise on my left knee and a dimpled red abrasion on my forehead, just above the hairline, where I took a full hit. Tomorrow I will count seven bruises purpling my skin, as well as a general soreness in all my limbs and a noticeable dimness in my thinking.

For a friend's 30th-birthday party, clearly some excessive form of juvenile entertainment is in order, and a dozen of us, ages 16 to 54, have come out to try our hand at paint ball. One older man, a seven-year combat veteran, shows up in full camouflage fatigues with an authentic bulletproof vest under them. He's not risking the sting of the bullets, even if they aren't fatal. He speaks knowingly about "cover fire," and I wonder nervously what I am doing here.

Once into it, I find that it is an adrenaline-soaked good time to skulk about in a murderous frenzy. But I wonder if, at 29, I have already outgrown this kind of fun. Am I just trying to prove that I still have a childish lust for any new experience?

There is hope though, even for a whiny twentysomething like me who's staring down 30. I recently stumbled across a book that anyone who worries if they're already too old at any age should read.

Still Doing It: Women and Men over 60 Write about Their Sexuality, edited by Good Vibrations founder Joani Blank, finds "oldsters," as they call themselves, in every sort of compromising position: S-M scenes, golden showers, masturbation, watching and making porn, romping at sex parties. If you can't bear to think about your parents having sex, much less your grandparents, then stop reading now.

While most books about sex in this age group fall into the how-to/self-help category — dealing with sexual problems around specific diseases or infirmities — this one is simply people in their 60s, 70s, and 80s describing how they do it. Banish from your thoughts the phrase "dirty old man," tasteless jokes about randy grandmas, and visions of Bob Dole on Viagra, because this is the real deal, and the stories are much more fascinating than any cruel crack you could make up about the subject.

Blank's glad that most of the stories in the book were collected before the Viagra craze. "I have very mixed feelings about it," says the legendary sex educator, who in the 1970s founded Down There Press. Blank thinks that the erection pill's popularity shows just how firmly our culture is still in the grips of "intercourse bias," equating sex with intercourse. Most of the stories in this book show much more inventiveness than that.

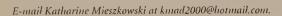
One sixtyish couple reveals the fun they have with a vibrating egg under the table when out for lunch or dinner. Being old is the ultimate cover: who's going to suspect you of anything? "No one is aware that we two old and gray codgers are engaged in sexual play, and to the others in the room it looks as if we're having our ordinary, boring senior conversation. Meanwhile, I am masturbating her to climax." Early-bird special anyone?

Many of the writers report being more sexually active in their 60s or 70s or 80s than when they were younger, either because they've been released from a sexless marriage by the death of a partner or by divorce, or simply because they have more free time. "By now we had no doubts that sex after sixty was far better than our earlier experiences," writes one. Another says, "Sex takes time and before retirement it was easy to put it off."

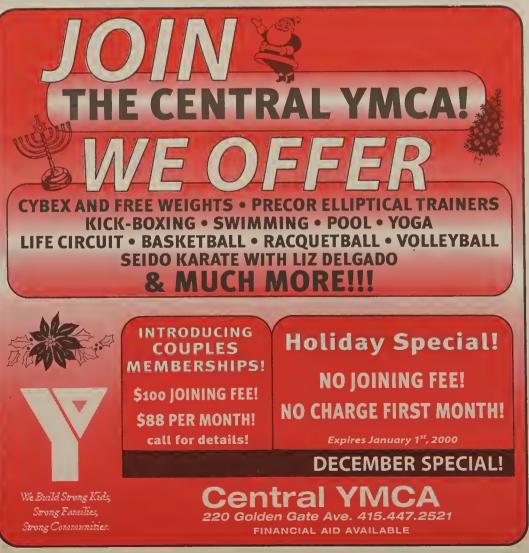
One story is about a long-distance flirty correspondence ("mind-fucking") begun through a personals ad in the *New York Review of Books*, which culminates in a steamy one-night stand. Then there's the reunion after 43 years of two people who dated in high school but now engage in acts they couldn't even have imagined back then: "Our real life together is much more complex than a teenage sex fantasy." Even the threat of death heats things up: "I'm convinced elderly lovers have the best of it. We know our time is limited, one or the other could die at any time, so there's a greater urgency about sex."

But the best thing about these stories is they don't read like stunt tales of an 87-year-old parachuting onto Everest just to show she still can. They're not heart-warming displays of gumption — they're hot, as steamy as erotica, with a real air of authenticity. And they will do a lot to jolt you out of your own nagging youth obsession, whatever your age, if only by making you realize how naive you really are about what's going on out there.

One grandma writes, "Well, I want to let you know that what you have to look forward to may be a lot better than you think." .\*







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by jason mark

### The new SEO

irst impressions matter. This is especially true when it comes to travel. The perfect week on the island or the café days spent in the capital can be clouded, in memory, by a nervous late-night arrival into the city or a mean-spirited border guard. Being badly ripped off in the cab from the train station can almost ruin a trip.

Airports play into this. The drunk young Germans kicking a soccer ball around the baggage carousels at Athens's airport as the locals, unbothered, smoke cigarettes, provide the first glimpse of a pleasantly untidy country. The amenities inside Mexico City's Benito Juarez Airport and the hardship outside reveal a nation so full of potential yet still so poor. JFK's bustle mirrors the

It's unfortunate, then, that so many airports are so easily forgettable, leaving no impression at all. I know I've been through the airports of, for example, Nashville, Philadelphia, and San Diego, but I couldn't say anything about them. They are more identical than individual, with little to distinguish them except perhaps some wall posters of local scenes. These are places you just pass through.

It wasn't always this way. In the 1950s and 1960s, airports were important architecturally. Dulles International Airport outside Washington, D.C., the stillfuturistic dome of LAX, and JFK's TWA terminal reflected the excitement of travel at the beginning of the jet age. Those buildings' bold, unlikely curves expressed the unbelievability of flight. And their grandeur recalled the glory days of train travel, when buildings like the old Penn Station weren't just infrastructure hubs but important civic spaces.

As air travel became more common, and as public space in general became less valued and rarer when the automobile took over, airport architecture grew uninspired. The low point was Chicago's Midway, little more than a pile of cinder blocks tossed down on the prairie.

And now we have the new San Francisco International. Opened just last week, the international terminal at SFO is a happy departure from the many unmemorable airports around the world. Adventurous and fresh, the new terminal is a major new civic space for the Bay Area.

Most of the media attention paid to the new international terminal has focused on the 16-month delay in opening it and the \$895 million price tag (which is \$260 million over budget). The cost overruns and delays are unfortunate. But taxpayers should be able to take solace in the final product. Even if the money wasn't well spent, the place is undeniably majestic.

For at least a year, passengers on their way to SFO have been able to see the basic shape of the new terminal, designed by Craig Hartman of the giant architecture firm Skidmore, Owings and Merrill. Coming through a tangle of offramps, travelers are greeted by three giant, eyelid-shaped curves of whitepainted steel above a glass curtain. Simple, modern lettering announces: San Francisco International. This is public architecture, a design that quite literally expresses the building's purpose. There's symbolism in the shapes too: the curves depict the physics of flight, the rippling metal bringing to mind wind lifting off an airplane's wings.

After the cramped space of the old international terminal, the interior of the new building is a terrific surprise. Seven hundred feet long, 200 feet wide, and up to 83 feet high, the terminal's departure hall, the centerpiece of the new airport, soars. The giant hall is completely open, occupied only by six freestanding islands that work as ticketing counters. Even these are open on both sides, so that from one edge of the concourse you can see clear to the other side. And then there is the glass: the entire west face is a wall of glass, translucent so that it distills the light. In many places the ceiling, which seems to float above the room, is also split with glass. You're never allowed to forget the sky, which peaks out again and again from the windows above.

The highlight of the departure hall is in the middle of the ceiling, where four long, white pieces of canvas are stretched below skylights. These ovals, designed by artist James Carpenter, capture and concentrate the outside light so that the feel of the hall changes constantly. From below, the shapes look like clouds and are ringed with rectangles of glass that at times look magenta, at times deep blue. The spaciousness, the light coming off the pure white steel and cool gray concrete, and the contour of the lines together create a wonderful excitement. The details hint at all the possibilities of travel.

But beyond the delights of the design, the new SFO is most importantly a new civic forum. The departure hall is a public space in the truest sense of the term: it allows room for both the individual and the collective. It makes the crowd, briefly, seem like a community.

Any traveler on the verge of a journey during this holiday season will be happy to stand in the middle of the airport rush and watch the thousands of people each going his or her own separate way, together at once. .



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## Like brandy for chocolate

Our tasting panel weighs the merits of two popular postprandial delicacies. By Paul Reidinger

essert, one of the monumental joys of childhood, becomes a dicier pleasure as one glides past 30 into a descending fugue of anxieties about that evil troika: fat, sugar, and calories. Part of the trouble is, as in so much of adult life. loss of innocence. Bismarck once said something to the effect that it was best not to know what went into the making of statecraft and sausage; he might easily have added dessert. When you've made a few desserts of your own, you begin to see what the Iron Chancellor was getting at. Sticks of butter, cups of sugar, blocks of chocolate, cream, whipped cream, and egg yolks all yodel in a waist-swelling chorus that did not trouble the greedy 5-year-old, stuffing his face with blueberry pie and chocolate revel ice cream and cupcakes and cookies and huge quantities of truffles filched from Mom's holiday cache; but that is, for the 35-year-old, a matter of grave and mounting concern. Adult weights are like gasoline prices or mortgage rates - quick to spike, difficult to coax back down.

At some point in my 30s it began dimly to occur to me that I could no longer just eat anything I felt like eating, in any amount, at any time. The consequences of gluttony were beginning to reveal themselves. And yet, after dinner, I still found myself yearning for some sort of closure - for a whisper of sweet. I experimented with decaf espresso, stylish and suave but also annoyingly complicated to produce if we happened not to be in a restaurant. The temperamental machine had to be warmed up, the beans measured, ground, and tamped — all for an ounce or so of coffee liquor that turned out to have strong diuretic properties. Even a tiny slug of decaf espresso would have me waking up at 1:30 in the morning, stumbling toward the bathroom across gelid floorboards.

the Alps as rescue dogs

are famed for carrying

little flasks of brandy

Heat, warmth, and fire

brandy's character, and

in fact the liquor will

actually burn if you

touch a flame to it, as

when you're mak-

ing, say, chicken-

liver paté, or

around their necks.

are all intrinsic to

And when did brandy occur to me? I believe that there was not a single flash of cognition but the accre-

tion of details: the pair of having a hard time getting Royal Doulton cutthe charcoals started crystal snifters on one of those some friends cold, blustery brought from evenings of summer. (I did England as this once, and (scant) reparation for it worked, but being houseit's preposterguests: the ously expensive bottle of calvaand wasteful and dos (French apple can't be recombrandy) I spent \$15 on mended short of the several years ago so I could most dire circumstances.) add the requisite two Brandy's revivitablespoons fying fire called for might by my have recipe somefor thing to chickenliver paté; the way it's made. snifter of Metaxa, a Classic French Greek brandy redobrandy, such as colent of vanilla and gnac or Armagnac, acmaple, ordered one tually begins as white evening by a friend in a wine (fermented from Greek restaurant and Colombard grapes, passed my way for a among others). The cautious sip. wine is then put in a The Metaxa burned still — essentially a going down, but pleascopper pot set over a antly. Within moments I fire, with an apparatus felt a warmth spreading at the top to capture through me. No wonder and condense the va-Saint Bernards working pors. That liquid is

must (the residue left by grapes crushed for wine), and the resulting liquid is not aged in oak barrels. Calvados is made by distilling fermented apple juice. The various eaux de vie are brandies made from fruits other than grapes (and apples), one of the most common being cherries.

But it's the cognac-style liquor that people most often think of when they think of brandy, and to try to make some sense of this busy world we recently convened one of our celebrated tasting panels to examine some brandies (and, to be on the safe side, chocolates too; more on those anon) you might easily find on the shelves of local retailers. As in so many other areas of food, wine, and spirits, northern California's boutique producers are putting out cognac-style alambic brandies that compare favorably to their European counterparts.

And in fact it was **Jepson** Rare Mendocino alambic brandy, produced in Ukiah, that earned, by a near unanimous vote, the panel's highest rating among five competitors. The tasters liked just about every aspect of the Jepson, from its "uniform," "integrated" honey amber color to its "toasty sugar nose" — "complex" and "flowery," with "grape overtones" — to a "buttery, rich, sweet" flavor of "caramel" that was "smooth" and imparted a "warm afterglow."

"I could drink this all day," said one taster, who luckily had shown up with a designated driver. On the other hand, one panelist did wonder if the Jepson was "a bit too obviously sweet."

then aged in oak casks,

which lend brandy its

amber color and many

Of course, not all

brandy is made exact-

ly in this way. Grap-

pa, the colorless but

fierce Italian stuff.

is distilled from

fermented

distinctive honey

subtleties of flavor.

On the question of a runner-up, views divided. There was surprising support for a calvados produced in France by **Daron** in the pays d'Auge. One taster liked its "luminous," "consistent honey color," while others detected in its bouquet clear whiffs of apricot and tropical fruit. Going down, the calvados did cause, for

one taster, a "slight burn" (could that be anything like one of Dick Cheney's "mild" heart attacks?), while another found it a "pretty obvious, California-style fruit-driven brandy.'

But, said a third panelist, claiming the last word, "I like it!"

The other runner-up, Germain-Robin, was described by one taster as "fair but nothing special" and by another as "elegant but ultimately fairly raw and lean." The group did like the brandy's "burnished, brassy gold color," which faded into a reddish hue around the edges — a sign, possibly, of aging. There were different takes on the Germain-Robin's aroma. One panelist detected elements of "honey, brass polish, wax, and spun sugar" (sounds like a list of ingredients for Homer Simpson's patented Moon Waffles), while another smelled something "fruity" and others picked up nothing at all.

As for the actual flavor, the group found the Germain-Robin "smooth in the mouth," with hints of "bitter orange peel," "butterscotch," and "caramel confection."

It leaves "a nice glow in the mouth," noted one, while another thought that the "lean, aromatic" brandy was "pretty harsh but interesting."

Falling well down the list was the only genuine entrant from Cognac, Planat VSOP. One taster thought that this French brandy, whose color was "more burnished" than the others, "would look great in a decanter." Its "very smooth floral aroma" struck another panelist as being "metallic," though with elements of "golden raisin." But it smelled better than it tasted; one panelist described the Planat as being both "watery" and "very bitter" - not a winning combination. Another found it to be "earthy," but said it "loses it in the afterburn," while another agreed that, though "smooth at first," the Planat suffered a "harsh decay" and left an "alcohol burn," "especially in the nose," not unlike wasabi, apparently.

Last and least was a brandy from **Korbel,** in Guerneville. Several members of the panel described this inexpensive drink as being "not bad" and "tasty," though fuming of alcohol -- "extremely raw," in the words of one. Others found "a little bit of dried hay" moderating the bouquet. The overall judgment of the Korbel reflected what one taster described as its "inconsistent qualities"; it's probably better suited for mixing with something else, or adding to chicken-liver paté, than drinking straight up as a dessert substitute.

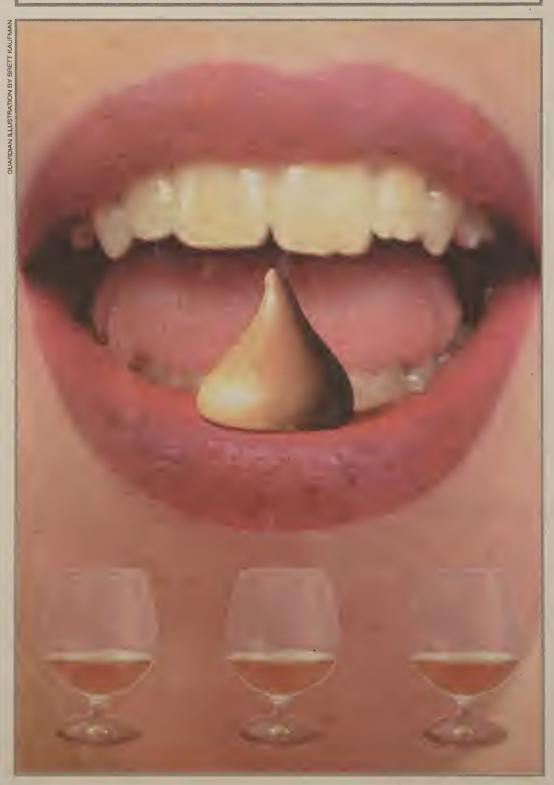
Of course nothing, not even fine brandy in fine snifters, can truly substitute for the central pillar of the great dessert edifice: chocolate. If you are hooked, you are hooked, and nothing will ever unhook you. You're left with the prospect — not entirely unpleasant, it must be said - of choosing the terms of your enslavement. Will you be a truffle fiend? An aficionado of frosted cakes? Mousses?

In trying to make some sense out of the ornate world of chocolate, we decided to spend our energies assessing the magic substance in its most versatile form: bars of bittersweet. You can

#### The brandies (ranked by preference):

- 1: Jepson Rare Mendocino Alambic, 750 ml., \$29.99 at Tower Market
- 2. Germain-Robin Fine Alambic, 750 ml., \$29.99 at Beverages and More
- 3. Daron Calvados, 375 ml., \$13.95 at Tower Market
- 4. Planat VSOP Cognac, 750 ml., \$17.99 at Beverages and More
- 5. Korbel, 1 liter, \$11.99 at Beverages and More





#### The chocolates (ranked by preference):

- 1. Callebaut, \$5.99 for 17.5 oz. at Tower Market
- 2. Scharffen Berger, \$3.29 for 3 oz. at Beverages and More
- 3. Valrhona, \$7.99 for 8.75 oz. at Beverages and More
- 4. Ghirardelli, \$1.99 for 4 oz. at Tower Market
- 5. Baker's, \$2.89 for 6 oz. at Tower Market



eat bittersweet chocolate right out of the wrapper, if you need an immediate fix, but it's also the kind of chocolate called for in many if not most dessert recipes.

As with cognac-style brandy, a local boutique industry has sprung up in recent years to rival the great old European producers of premium chocolate. And it was one of the boutique local brands, Scharffen Berger (produced in Berkeley) that made the strongest bid for the top spot, losing out to Belgium's renowned Callebaut by what amounted to a half-vote (an equal number of firstplace votes, but an extra secondplace vote for Callebaut).

Virtually no one had a bad word to say about the Callebaut chocolate. One panelist liked its "fudgelike" texture (the package claims a minimum cocoa content of 55 percent), while others caught suggestions of cinnamon and hazelnut in its "syrupy" flavor, which "clings to your mouth."

"Ooh, that's good," one panelist exclaimed, "full and integrated."

The Scharffen Berger chocolate struck several panelists as "shiny" and "slick" in appearance, no doubt because of its cocoa content of 70 percent. Its flavor made a notable contrast with the Callebaut; instead of nuts and spices, the panel detected hints of coffee and berries and even a bit of orange. It was "adult chocolate," in the words of one summaryminded taster.

Running near the leaders, though not earning any first-place votes, was a bittersweet chocolate (61 percent cocoa content) from the French producer Valrhona. The group liked its "consistent" texture while noting its reluctance to melt - possibly an issue for home pastry chefs. Several members of the panel described its flavor as being "fruity," with, again, suggestions of berry (and in one case, milk.) And there was a near-unanimous agreement that the Valrhona was sweeter than most of the other choco-

Ghirardelli's bittersweet chocolate ("for baking and eating") earned a lonely first-place vote, but the panel seemed to like it more than the tally indicated. Several tasters found the Ghirardelli (no cocoa rating on the package) reminiscent of milk chocolate, while even more noted its sweetness — "almost too sweet for bittersweet," one wrote. But on the whole, the panel found the Ghirardelli bittersweet "easy to take" and even 'very elegant."

The only chocolate the panel really didn't care for was the bittersweet stuff from Baker's, a common supermarket brand. Its color was 'dull," its texture "chalky," "sandy," "dry," and "ashy," its flavor "awful" and with "no richness." One panelist found it to be "terrible, like chocolate chalk," while another thought it was "for cooking only."

"Get rid of this one," said a third, who hadn't been much of a brandylover before the proceedings began but who, in the wake of the toothshattering Baker's, could later be found rummaging longingly among the bottles, with their sublime honeycolored liquids. ❖







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#### cheap eats

## Foot soup

You only have two feet. So you shouldn't cook either of them.

've been away for a while, but now I'm back. It's good to be back for many, many reasons, not the least of which is that I can again write to you from the comfort of my own bathtub. Now that I mention it, though, most of the bathtubs I made guest appearances in across the country and back these past five weeks were way more comfortable than my own. My personal favorite was Haywire's, in Brooklyn, although I didn't get any good writing done there, maybe because it was too comfortable. No dummy drain. Deep enough to drown in ...

But I'm not a bathtub reviewer, and I don't know if anyone likes imagining me in the bathtub, what with all the necessary nudity and all. Anyway, I figure, with regard to my other most prolific writing station, also located in the bathroom ... ah, bathtub's not so bad, is it?

Well, except the water's a wee bit hot right now, and I can't help thinking about this Binko story Bink relayed to me recently, thirdhand, as usual, about the lug-nut father-in-law of an ex-coworker of his, circa Ohio, who, in his circusperforming days (circa 1960s), crashed up real good and drunk one night in a car, getting pre-safety-glass glass all in his one leg and foot. I forget which one, but the point is that he never did nothing much about it, except what he could do himself with needle-nose pliers next morning.

Cut to 30 years later: the lug nut, six feet, five inches, 300 (must've been the strong man, circa circus days), experiences occasional numbness and swelling in his one leg and foot, wouldn't you know. But he still doesn't believe in doctors any more than he did the day after his accident, so he figures the thing to do is to soak the foot in Epsom salts.

Now, this lug nut has him a wife who, on account of love, or six feet, five inches, 300, pretty much does as she's told by him to do. So when he orders a bucket of hot water, for example, she brings it, and when he snarls, "Not hot enough. Hotter!" she makes it hotter, and hotter, and hotter, as per his command, until finally he's sitting there soaking his foot - which he can't feel anyway — in boiling water.

Apparently he's lost his sense of smell, too, because he doesn't realize he's made foot soup until he stands up, finally, and takes a step. At which point he just crumbles, the meat coming right off the bone real nice. Now, according to Binko, or "urban legend has it" (although Bink swears the story's true; hey, he worked with the guy's son-in-law) ... the old crank's got no legs left to speak of. But I don't know the story behind the other one, and if I did, I wouldn't have time to tell it, because now the water's a little too cold, and I've got work to do.

Real quick then, with apologies to Lotus Garden for starting out this review of their sweet little restaurant with a story about foot soup ... luck of the draw, luck of the draw. Well, I will say this: I'm not sorry to have so little space left in which

Me and Crawdad went there on a night on which she wasn't even hungry, and I was saving room for a subsequent soup party. "We'll order the usual amount," I said, "and we'll take some of everything home for lunch tomorrow." We ordered beef salad (\$5.75), hot and sour shrimp soup (\$6.95, large), and grilled lemongrass chicken (\$9.75).

That last one was a splurge — one of the most expensive out of the hundred or so items on the menu — but it sounded too good to pass up. Listen: "Slices of tender chicken grilled at your table. Served with rice papers, lettuce, mint leaves" and some other stuff, such as grilled onions, pickled onions, carrots,

The waitressperson grilled the meat and onions right there at our table on this nifty little gas grill, which smoked up the place pretty good, but that's OK because no one was there but us. Afterward, we made little rice-paper roll-ups of all these good things, and let me tell you, it was delicious. So was the soup and the salad. Everything was so great, in fact, that we left the place empty handed. I'd saved room for the soup party, and Crawdad had already eaten dinner earlier, and still we cleaned up all our plates, no problem. What's wrong with this picture?

Lotus Garden is only six months old. They're friendly as heck, so maybe they'll take a friendly tip from me: quantity is as important, if not more important than quality, in my book. Pile it on, please, or else go all the way, fancypants; raise your prices high enough that big-eating cheapskates like me will know not to go there. \*

Lotus Garden. 3452 Mission (at 30th St.), S.F. (415) 642-1987. Tues.-Thurs. and Sun., 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; Fri.-Sat., 11 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Takeout available. American Express, Discover, MasterCard, Visa. Wheelchair accessible.

Dan Leone is the author of Eat This, San Francisco (Sasquatch Books), a collection of Cheap Eats restaurant reviews, and The Meaning of Lunch (Manmoth Books). You can find short stories by him each week in Looseleaf on sfbg.com. New installments go up every Thursday at www.sfbg.com/looseleaf/index.luml.



#### table ready

by stephanie rosenbaum

## **Cold comfort**

orget the mistletoe and the red and green M&Ms: this year, the holiday season has arrived in a virusy cloud of sneezes and flu. Steaming cups of Theraflu replace mugs of mulled wine; eggnog's been dumped for turbochugs of Strawberry C Monster. When the snuffly nose retreats, the sore throat and sinus headaches move in. What kind of Christmas is this?

Well, look on the bright side: you can call in sick! And since this nasty bug is definitely going around, no one will imagine you're really shirking your duties, or trying to get out of the Secret Santa exchange. In fact, by staying in bed, you're actually keeping your infectious, germ-ridden self away from the rest of your colleagues, allowing them to continue on their productive, gingerbread latte-fueled ways. (And after all, if anything exciting happens at work — such as the whole sales and marketing team getting laid off without severance—you can be sure someone will instant-message you the news.)

This being December, I was all set to embark on my yearly fruitcake redemption crusade. I was even armed with a swell-sounding recipe for English Christmas Cake, heavy on the raisins and brandy. But forget it! No way am I, or any other

The most

restorative food

is something

someone else

makes for you.

In a city, this is

called takeout.

sickly person, standing around steeping prunes in sherry for two days or traipsing from health-food store to supermarket to acquire the right combination of dried figs and candied lemon peel. Nope, this is the time for restorative foodstuff that not only helps you get better but makes you feel well cared for and loved.

Given your weakened condition, the most restorative food is something someone else makes for you. In a city, of course, this is called takeout. Without the delivery infrastructure (and density) of Manhattan, most San Franciscans' ex-

perience with dialing for food is limited to the odd late-night call to Cybelle's. But if you have a cold, pizza is not what you want. As any mom can tell you, cheese (and milk, yogurt, etc. - any dairy) will just gunk up your nasal passages further. When you're sick in bed, you need soup. And not just any soup, although Campbell's Chicken and Stars (why stars? Strictly for the cuteness factor, and because you don't need to expend so much slippery pasta-chasing energy as you would with, say, chicken-noodle) will always see you through. (Better yet, you can find it at nearly every corner store, even the ones that otherwise sell only Fritos and blue Gatorade. Even better, you can go to Webvan and make some nice 20-year-old guy named Chad bring it up to your door in a bright yellow box.) Any kind of chicken soup will go far in curing what ails you, as long as you're getting lots of broth in between the noodles or

chunks of carrot and potato. What will really knock out the germs, though, is garlic, particularly coupled with hot pepper and a good squirt of lime juice. This isn't just grandmother advice: garlic is a potent antibacterial and antifungal, and just about the best thing you can ingest when little microbes are setting up housekeeping in your head. Heat, in the form of capsicum-packed peppers, will help clear your head -- think about that sudden runny nose that a really spicy plate of Hunan shrimp brings on.

What this all adds up to is tom yum, Thai soup of the gods. This spicy, sour, hot broth, flavored with lime leaves, lemongrass, and cilantro, will never fail you. You can get your protein with some chunks of chicken or a few bobbing shrimp. Bean sprouts, mushrooms, and tomatoes sometimes get added into the mix. Every Thai restaurant makes it, which means that you are probably only a couple blocks in any direction from a quart of the best liquid medicine you can buy. The other day, besieged by a sinus headache seething down to my fillings, I stumbled down to a counter seat at Yamo Thai and planted my face two inches from a bowl of tom yum (at lunchtime, you can get it as a meal-in-a-bowl with tofu, carrots, mushrooms, bean sprouts, and rice noodles). Ten minutes later, the headache was gone, replaced by a calm, steamy sense of well-being. (And is it just me, or is Yamo herself losing her legendarily crabby edge?)

After you've downed gallons of this stuff, you may wonder about making it yourself, just in case no one's around to haul those Styrofoam tubs back up to your flat. To be authentic, you'll need fresh lemongrass, fresh hot peppers, and a few kaffir lime leaves, plus cilantro, limes, garlic, and chicken broth. If fresh lemongrass isn't a part of your usual pantry, get a jar of Thai red curry paste instead. Sold in little four-ounce jars in the Asian food section of most supermarkets, this is a sinus-blasting combo of chiles, onion, garlic, salt, and spices. It lasts forever in the refrigerator, so unless you make a lot of Thai-style curries, it will always be there waiting for your next cold. Warm up some chicken broth on the stove; toss in several cloves of chopped garlic and a tablespoonful of curry paste. If you have them, add some chopped scallions, some cubes of tofu or shredded spinach. Stir until the curry paste melts and the soup is steaming. Squeeze in some lime or lemon juice, and drink. Ahhhh. &



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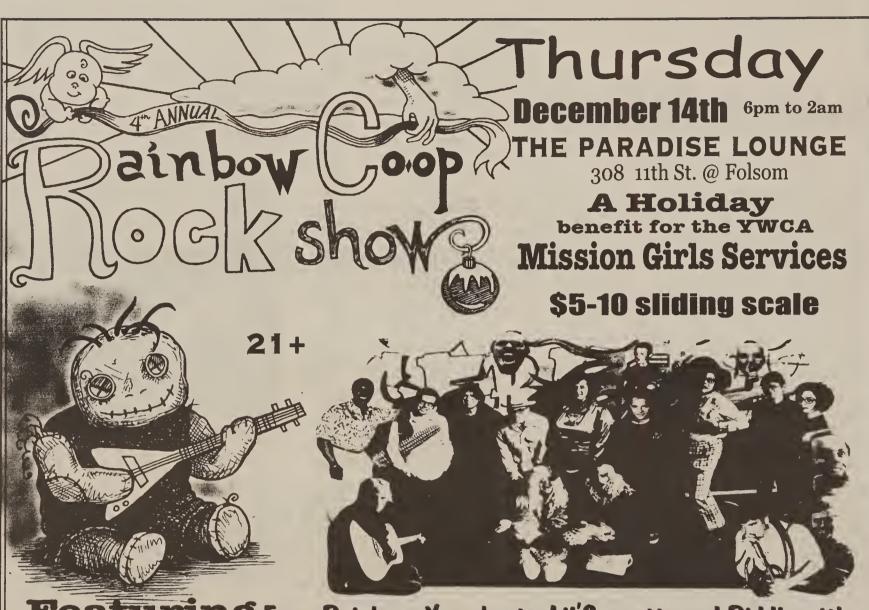
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## Eat here now

The Bay Guardian welcomes you to our dining section, a detailed list by neighborhood of some great places to grab a bite, hang out with friends, or impress the ones you love with thorough knowledge of this delectable city. These listings are compiled from previous restaurant reviews and Best of the Bay and Insider's Guide selections.

The skinny Restaurants are reviewed by Dan Leone (D.L.), Paul Reidinger (P.R.), Derk Richardson (D.R.), Stephanie Rosenbaum (S.R.), Eric Stephan (E.S.), Miriam Wolf (M.W.), or staff. All area codes are 415 and all restaurants are wheelchair accessible, except where noted.

Deciphering the codes Meals served are indicated by B (breakfast), BR (Saturday and/or Sunday brunch), L (lunch), and D (dinner); credit cards accepted are indicated by AE (American Express), DC (Diners Club), DISC (Discover), MC (MasterCard), and V (Visa).

Price range

¢ less than \$7 per entrée

\$ \$7-\$12

\$\$ \$13-\$20

**\$\$\$** more than \$20

#### Critic's choice

Chenery Park is the restaurant Glen Park has been waiting for all these years: a calm, un-derstated setting (lots of stairs!) and an eclectic American menu with plenty of sly twists. A worthy addition to the city's array of first-class neighborhood restaurants. (P.R., 11/00) 683 Chenery (at Diamond), S.F. 337-8537. American, D, \$\$, MC/V.

#### Recently reviewed

Cafe J keeps a low decorative profile, but the Basque dishes really rock. The pariatta — a reinterpretation of seafood paella, seasoned with ginger and cilantro — is one of the best restaurant dishes you're likely to eat in this town. And the Basque-style mussels aren't far behind, (P.R., 11/00) 1708 Church (at 29th St.), S.F. 970-1095. French/Basque, D,

Masala means "spice mixture," and spices aplenty you will find in the south Asian aplenty you will find in the south Asian menu. Don't miss the chicken tikka masala, and be sure to order plenty of nan to sop up the sauce with. (P.R., 11/00) 1220 Ninth Ave. (at Lincoln), S.F. 566-6976. Indian/Pakistani, L/D, S, AE/DC/DS/MC/V.

Sushi Groove South continues the westward

march of hipsterdom through SoMa. The food — traditional sushi augmented by quietly stylish fusion dishes — is spectacular. The setting — a candlelit grotto abrim with black-clad young — is charged with high romance. (P.R., 12/00) 1516 Folsom (at 11th), S.F. 503-1950. Japanese/sushi, L/D, \$, AE/

On the cheap: vegetarian

Ananda Fuara serves a distinctly Indian-in-fluenced vegetarian menu in the sort of calm surroundings that are increasingly the exception to the rule. Service is friendly and swift, prices low, and you can get dal with

practically everything. (P.R., 2/00) 1298 Market (at Ninth St.), S.F. 621-1994. Vegetarian, L/D, ¢, cash only.

Ganges spices its savory vegetarian Indian fare with a very liberal hand. The menu changes often to take advantage of seasonal vegetables and the creativity of the chef. (Staff) 775 Frederick (at Willard), S.F. 661-7290. Indian, D, \$, MC/V.

Legume brings a stylish vegetarian menu to the heart of Noe Valley. Goat cheese enlivens many of the dishes; fresh produce, much of it organic, does the rest. (P.R., 8/00) 4042 24th St. (at Castro), S.F. 401-7668. Vegetarian, B/L/D, \$, MC/V.

#### Downtown, Embarcadero

**Anjou** is the *other* restaurant on Campton Place — a lovely little warren of brick and brass serving an unpretentious, and some-times inventive, French histro menu. (P.R., 11/98) 44 Campton Place (at Stockton), S.F. 392-5373. French, L/D, \$\$, AE/DC/DISC/

**B44** brings Daniel Olivella's Catalan cooking to al fresco-friendly Belden Place. The salt cod-studded menu is stronger in first than main dishes. Frenchy desserts. (P.R., 3/00) 44 Belden Place (near Pine), S.F. 986-6287 Catalan, L/D, \$\$, AE/MC/V.

Chaya Brasserie brings a taste of L.A.'s preen-and-be-seen culture to the waterfront. The Japanese-influenced French food is mostly French, and very expensive, while a handsome sushi bar tucked into a far corner offers great stuff at good value. (P.R., 4/00) 132 the Embarcadero (at Mission), S.F. 777-8688. Fusion, D. \$\$\$, AE/DC/MC/V. Cosmopolitan Cafe is certainly cosmopolitan but hardly a cafe. Its high arched ceiling and abundance of rich wood paneling make it

seem like a huge Pullman car. The New American menu emphasizes heartiness, from a huge juicy pork chop with spatzle and roasted zinfandel onions to strips of rainbow trout served on a very substantial rock shrimp hash. A mixed-berry shortcake is a fine twist on an old dessert standard. (P.R., 9/00) 121 Spear (at Howard), S.F. 543-4001. American, L/D, \$\$, AE/DC/MC/V. Elisabeth Daniel combines, like a Swiss watch, elegance, precision, and beauty, and the result is one of the best restaurants in the city. The food is haute but limber French, the interior design gracefully muted, the service of the highest order. Extremely pricey. (P.R., 3/00) 550 Washington (at Montgomery), S.F. 397-6129. French, L/D, \$\$\$, AE/MC/V.

Fifth Floor returns George Morrone to the city's restaurant scene in high style — literally. The restaurant, on the fifth floor of the Palomar Hotel, feels plushly art deco. The food hovers somewhere between hearty and lavish, ranging from roasted baby chicken with bay and fingerling potatoes to poached Maine lobster with white corn and vermouth essence. (P.R., 10/99) 12 Fourth St. (at Market), S.F. 348-1555. California, D, \$\$\$, AE/MC/V.

First Crush goes the average wine bar one better: it's also got an excellent full-service restaurant in the basement — a stylish grotto done up in hues of grape and sun. The food marches from the kitchen like a well-trained brass band; the flavors are big and direct, to match all those California wines. (P.R., 4/99) 101 Cyril Magnin (at Ellis), S.F. 982-7874. California, D, \$\$, AE/

Fleur de Lys There's a definite midnight-at-the-oasis feel to this sophisticated and very formal restaurant. For a sublime experience, order one of the multicourse prix fixe meals, available in both omnivorous and vegetarian styles. (Staff) 777 Sutter (at Taylor), S.F. 673-7779. French, D, \$\$\$, AE/DC/DISC/MC/V. Gordon Biersch Head to this sprawling Embarcadero brew pub for a few pints of lager or Märzen along with some garlic fries or chicken satay, then stay on to watch the Bay Bridge light up while pensively chewing

on one of the restaurant's wood-fired pizzas, like the sinfully rich wild inushroom, grilled leek, truffle oil, and fontina combination. (S.R., 5/98) 2 Harrison (at Spear), S.F. 243-8246. Brew pub, L/D, \$-\$\$, AE/DC/DISC/

Grand Cafe joins a spectacular setting and a French-California menu of understated elegance. The place could use a better name, but the food is every bit as good as at its more glamorous competition. It's the place to go for a quiet first-rate experience. (P.R., 4/99) 501 Geary (at Taylor), S.F. 292-0101. California, B/BR/L/D, \$\$\$, AE/MC/

Kokkari is an upscale but authentic taverna — beamed ceilings, blazing fireplace, and that (amously gesticulative Greek hospitality. Chef Jean Alberti's food alter-nates smoothly between classic dishes and California-Hellenic turns, such as grilled tuna with oregano pesto. (P.R., 5/99) 200 Jackson (at Front), S.F. 981-0983. Greek, L/D, \$\$\$, AE/DC/MC/V.

**Kyo-Ya** may not be *the* best Japanese restaurant in the city, but it's certainly one of them. Elegantly padded surroundings, sublime sushi, and a wide selection of cooked. dishes attract an international mercantile class. Lovely all the same. Expensive too. (P.R., 11/99) 2 New Montgomery (at Mar ket), S.F. 512-1111. Japanese, L/D, \$\$\$, AE/

MacArthur Park still occupies a gorgeous brick cavern in the Barbary Coast, but the restaurant these days is more a neighborhood spot than a destination, and the emphasis seems to be on takeout. The slabs of baby back ribs are paradoxes of first-rate meat, anemic sauce, and overcooking. But the place is comfortable, and comfortably nostalgic. (P.R., 7/99) 607 Front (at Jackson), S.F. 781-5560. Barbecue, L/D, \$\$, AE/

MoMo's San Francisco Grill The new American food at MoMo's is surprisingly excellent (if it's been a while since you've had macaroni and cheese, have it here, with cubes of Black Forest ham), and the interior decoration is opulent, with prairie-style furniture, wood trim, dark-green carpeting, and dimpled leather upholstery on the banquettes. (P.R., 11/98) 760 Second St. (at King), S.F. 227-8660. American, BR/L/D, \$\$, AE/MC/V. Paragon has left behind its sports bar, fratty Marina incarnation to become, near the Giants' new ballpark, a stylish haven of gastronomic Americana. The food ranges from burgers to foie gras, touching lots of points in between. Something for everyone in a strikingly vertical space. (P.R., 5/00) 701 Second St. (at King), S.F. 537-9020. American,

L/D, \$\$, MC/V.

Plouf Mussels 10 ways — need we say more? Plouf knows its turf, and that's surf. All the seafood sparkles at this chic spot tucked away on pedestrians-only Belden Place, though mussels are a house specialty, impec-cably fresh and served in brimming bowlfuls. Lots of outdoor seating reinforces the French-café feel. (S.R., 5/98) 40 Belden Place (at Bush), S.F. 986-6491. French, L/D, \$\$, AE/MC/V.

Ponzu opened early in 2000 but is likely to be remembered as one of the year's best new restaurants. Its menu ranges across south Asia with stylish agility — tangy Vietnamese carpaccio, Mongolian lamb loin, cilantrocharged monster noodles - at strikingly reasonable prices. The décor manages to be warm, bright, and modern without going over the top. (P.R., 2/00) 401 Taylor (at O'-Farrell), S.F. 775-7979. Asian, B/D, \$\$, MC/V. Postrio Wolfgang Puck's venerable outpost in the city still sparkles. Despite the drama of the setting, the food receives loving attention. Like an opera circuse the kitches hite. tion. Like an opera singer, the kitchen hits notes low and high with equal aplomb. Arty desserts. (P.R., 3/99) 545 Post (at Mason), S.F. 776-7825. California, B/BR/L/D, \$\$\$, AE/DC/MC/V

**Red Herring** brings yet another high-end seafood house to the reviving Embarcadero.

The menu features plenty of playful brass a whole snapper given the tandoori treatment — but there are subtle elements as well, such as a carpaccio of day-boat scallops topped with ahi-tartare-stuffed squid-ink pasta. Unbeatable bay and bridge views. (P.R., 8/99) 155 Steuart (at Howard), S.F. 495-6500. Seafood, L/D, \$\$\$, AE/MC/V. **Tadich Grill** is the city's oldest restaurant (150 years and counting), and it still packs 'em in, specializing in seafood and most anything grilled. (Staff) 240 California (at Battery), S.F. 391-1849. Grill, L/D, \$\$, AE/

Tlaloc rises like a multistorey loft on its Financial District Lane, the better to accommodate the hordes of suits crowding in for a noontime burrito-and-salsa fix. They serve a mean pipian burrito, and decent fish tacos. (P.R., 10/00) 525 Commercial (at Sansome), 6.F. 981-7800. Mexican, L/D, ¢, AE/MC/V. **Town's End** enjoys a reputation for a fabulous weekend brunch (getting in can be a trick), but the restaurant serves a polished California menu at dinner, too, when getting a table is a lot easier. The best items are seasonal, of course, such as a late-summer salad of heirloom tomatoes, and the kitchen handles fish with real flair. (P.R., 11/98) 2 Townsend (at Embarcadero), S.F. 512-0749. California, B/BR/L/D, \$\$, AE/DC/MC/V. Tu Lan has few luxuries except the food, which is a luxury to the wealthiest palate. Raw foods converge in salads and stir-fries that'll leave you wondering why your own good, (Staff) 8 Sixth St. (at Market), S.F. 626-0927. Vietnamese, L/D, ¢.

#### North Beach, Chinatown

Black Cat won't be remembered as Reed Hearon's best restaurant, but it does offer many satisfying dishes at reasonable prices. Seafood linguine and Singapore noodles represent the best of the kitchen's low-key effectiveness, and Hearon's signature ironskillet-roasted mussels are reliably fine. (P.R., 9/99) 501 Broadway (at Kearny), S.F. 981-2233. Eclectic, L/D, \$\$, AE/DC/MC/V. Da Flora advertises Venetian specialties, but you won't find much in the way of seafood or risotto here. The pastas are tours de force of balance and composition, while notes from Central Europe (veal in paprika cream sauce) and points east (whiffs of nutmeg) creep into other fine dishes. (P.R., 4/99) 701 Columbus (at Filbert), S.F. 981-4664. Italian. D. \$\$. MC/V

Dalla Torre Tucked away on the northeast slope of Telegraph Hill, this is one of the most inaccessible restaurants in the city. The multilevel dining room — a cross between an Italian country inn and a Frank Lloyd Wright house — offers memorable bay views, but the pricey food is erratic. (P.R., 4/99) 1349 Montgomery (at Union), S.F. 296-1111. Italian, D, \$\$\$, AE/DC/DISC/

Enrico's Sidewalk Cafe remains a classic see and-be-seen part of the North Beach scene. The full bar and extensive menu of tapas, pizzas, pastas, and grills make dropping in at any hour a real treat. (S.R., 5/98) 504 Broadway (at Kearny), S.F. 982-6223. Italian, L/D, \$\$, AE/DC/DISC/MC/V.

Maykadeh Persian Cuisine is a great date restaurant, classy but not too pricey, and there are lots of veggie options both for ap-petizers and entrées. Khoresht bademjan was a delectable, deep-red stew of tomato and eggplant with a rich, sweet, almost chocolaty undertone. (E.S., 2/97) 470 Green (at Grant), S.F. 362-8286. Persian, L/D, \$,

Micheiangelo Cafe There's always a line out-side this quintessential North Beach restau-rant, but it's well worth the sidewalk time for Michelangelo's excellent Italian, served in a bustling, family-style atmosphere. The seafood dishes are recommended; approach the postprandial Gummi Bears at your own risk. (Staff) 597 Columbus (at Union), S.F. 986-4058. Italian, D, \$\$.

Moose's is famous for the Mooseburger — an estimable patty of ground beef with fine fries — but the rest of the menu is comfortably sophisticated, with touches from all around the Mediterranean. The crowd is moneyed but not showy and definitely not nouveau. (P.R., 10/99) 1652 Stockton (at Union), S.F. 989-7800. American, BR/L/D, \$\$, AE/DC/MC/V.

- 1. A Russell Hobbs toaster, from PCD, \$79.99
- 2. Sutter Home moscato: guzzleable
- 3. Matzoh-ball soup
- 4. Del Taco, Cathedral City
- 5. Coffee cake and half-caf from Martha's, 24th Street

Tavolino At popular Tavolino, the emphasis is on cicchetti, starter-sized portions of raw, grilled, or sautéed seafood, a few meats, and a wide variety of vegetables. Perhaps due to the share-and-share-alike emphasis of the menu, the restaurant is geared towards larger parties; couples can often be shunted off to a strip of banquette seating. (S.R., 7/98) 401 Columbus (at Vallejo), S.F. 392-1472. Italian, L/D, \$, AE/MC/V.

**Zax** belongs to the group of top-flight mid-1990s neighborhood restaurants that were and are the hest places to eat California cuisine. From a goat-cheese souffle with apple-fennel slaw to braised lamb shank with pancetta-scented white beans, the food -fresh, precise, imaginative hut not too the star. (P.R., 7/00) 2330 Taylor (at Columbus), S.F. 563-6266. California, D, \$\$, MC/V.

#### SoMa

Asiasf Priscilla, Queen of the Desert meets Asian-influenced tapas at this amusingly surreal lounge. The inexpensive fusion food comes and goes (best bets: heef burger, spicy minced chicken), but the drag-queen bur-lesque spectacle draws a varied audience that's a show in itself. (P.R., 9/98) 201 Ninth St. (at Howard), S.F. 255-2742. Fusion, D, \$, AE/DC/DISC/MC/V.

Azie Chef Jody Denton's menu is spit-and-polish, from a dazzling plate of nine bites (including a fabulous crab pot de crème) to such miraculous sauces as the tangerinecurry number that accompanies a batter-fried whole Thai snapper. (P.R., 1/00) 826 Folsom (at Fourth St.), S.F. 538-0918. Fu-sion, D, \$\$\$, AE/DC/MC/V.

Big Nate's Barbecue is pretty stark inside mostly linoleum arranged around a pair of massive brick ovens. But the hot sauce will make you sneeze. (P.R., 7/99) 1665 Folsom (at 12th St.), S.F. 861-4242. Barbecue, L/D,

Bizou Chef-owner Loretta Keller's Provençal-influenced menu is big on flavor, from a pissaladière like flat bread topped with caramelized onions, cheese, and olives to grilled duck breast with slices of roasted peach. This restaurant is sure of itself; there is no overreaching. (P.R., 9/99) 598 Fourth St. (at Brannan), S.F. 543-2222. California, L/D, \$\$\$, AE/MC/V.

Enzo's is worth finding, not just for the credible tiramisu (enhanced with raspberries) but also for the rest of the predictably zesty menu and the eminently fair prices. (P.R., 9/98) 510 Brannan (at Fourth St.), S.F. 974-3696. Italian, I./D. \$, AE/MC/V. Hawthorne Lane If you want to feel virtuously cultured and coddled at the same , take a spin through the galleries at SF-MOMA, then duck in for a late lunch at Hawthorne Lane, with its English-storybook decor. (S.R., 2/98) 22 Hawthorne Lane (between Second and Third Sts., at Howard), S.F. 777-9779. California, L/D, \$\$\$, MC/V. Left Coast Cafe brings a breath of California freshness to the otherwise slightly antiseptic atrium of the Dolby Building. Healthy sandwiches (tuna, hummus), a decent Caesar, good mom-style cookies and brownies. (P.R., 10/00) 999 Brannan (at 9th), S.F. 522-0232. California, B/L, ¢, cash only. LuLu defines the modern California restaurant. Many dishes acquire a heart-swelling

smokiness from the oven — a plate of portobello mushrooms, say, with soft polenta and mascarpone butter. (P.R., 7/99) 816 Folsom (at Fourth St.), S.F. 495-5775. Mediterranean, L/D, \$\$\$, AE/MC/V.

Maya is like a good French restaurant serving elegant food that tastes Mexican. There are unforgettable tastes here: corn kernels steeped in vanilla, lovely grilled pork tenderloin served with a pipian sauce of pumpkin-seed and tamarind. (P.R., 5/99) 303 Second St. (at Folsom), S.F. 543-6709. Mexican, L/D, \$\$\$, AE/DC/DISC/MC/V.

Continued on page 44





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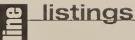
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#### **Eat Here Now**

Nob Hill, Russian Hill Bistro Zaré, Hoss Zaré's latest venture, fea-tures a menu of herb-flecked sunshine that amounts to a tour of the eastern Mediterranean, from the signature arancini — saf-fron risotto balls stuffed with Gorgonzola fron i sotto balis stuffed with Gorgonzola— to a Greek salad dressed with a creamy garlic vinaigrette to salmon cakes delicately scent-ed with curry. (P.R., 6/99) 1507 Polk (at Cal-ifornia), S.F. 775-4304. Mediterranean, D, \$\$, AF/MC/V.

Crustacean is famous for its roast Dunge-Grustacean is famous for its roast Dungeness crab, but the truly addictive item on the menu here is the plate of demure-looking garlic noodles. The rest of the "Euro/Asian" menu is refreshingly Asian in emphasis. (P.R., 2/99) 1475 Polk (at California), S.F. 776-2722. Fusion, L/D, \$\$, AE/

Yabbies Coastal Kitchen There's lots to shuck and swallow at the raw bar, but don't miss tropical seafood cocktails (like the crah with mango and lemongrass) piled glam-orously into martini glasses. Splendid porci-ni-seared sea bass, grilled sailfish, and scal-lops with truffled mushroom salad. Save room for the hot fudge sundae. (S.R., 3/97) 2237 Polk (at Green), S.F. 474-4088. California, D, \$\$, MC/V.

Zarzuela's rich selection of truly delicious tapas and full meals make it a neighborhood favorite. (Staff) 2000 Hyde (at Union), S.F. 346-0800. Tapas, D, \$\$, DISC/MC/V.

#### Civic Center, Tenderloin

Cafe 180 adds another preperformance din-ing option to the Civic Center scene. The design is shabby chic, the food credible, in a design is shadoy thit, the lood cleanine, in a cut-rate fancy way. Portions are huge. (P.R., 11/00) 25 Van Ness (at Oak), S.F. 864-4288. California, L/D, \$\$, AE/DC/DS/MC/V. Canto do Brasil The draw here is lusty yeo-

nan cooking, Brazilian style, at beguilingly low prices. The tropically cerulean interior design, with fat comfy chairs, ceiling fans, and lots of plants enhances the illusion of sitting at a beach café. (P.R., 10/98) 41 Franklin (at Oak), S.F. 626-8727. Brazilian, U.S. & M.C.

L/D, \$, MC/V.

Cordon Bleu has huge portions, tiny prices, and a hoppin' location right next to the Lumiere Theatre. The special here is five-spice roasted chicken, half a bird for \$5.15 with country cabbage salad and a big mountain of meat sauce-smothered rice. (D.L., 4/97) 1574 California (at Polk), S.F. 673-5637. Vietnamese, L/D, ¢.

Indigo serves up good California cuisine in a pleasantly stylish setting. A great presymphony choice. (S.R., 8/97) 687 McAllister (at Gough), S.F. 673-9353. California, D, \$\$, AE/MC/V.

Jardinière combines an aggressively elegant Pat Kuleto design with the calm confidence of Traci des Jardins's cooking. The best dishof Iraci des Jardins's cooking. The best dishess—foie gras with pear gastrique and brioche, a dessert of mascarpone-stuffed crepes and sliced plums sautéed in muscat—are unforgettable. (P.R., 11/98) 300 Grove (at Franklin), S.F. 861-5555. California, D, \$\$\$, AE/DC/DISC/MC/V.

Millennium Finally, a restaurant where you can toast your vegan friends in style. Phyllo purses stuffed with wild mushrooms and tofu ricotta and silky chocolate midnight toful hortzafid and yerlocular infantation cake are just a few of the organic, low-fat, and animal-free treats that will please both veggies and omnivores alike. (Staff) 246 McAllister (at Larkin), S.F. 487-9800. Vegetarian, D, \$\$, DC/MC/V.

paul K offers an eastern Mediterranean menu as good as any in town, at notably uninflated prices. The mountain flat bread alone (along with two kinds of hummus) is worth a visit, but the menu accelerates smoothly all the way to dessert, where a cardamom fritter casts new light on our old friend the doughnut. (P.R, 4/00) 199 Gough (at Oak), S.F. 552-7132. Mediterranean, D, \$\$, AE/DC/MC/V.

Tavern on the Tenderloin gives students at the California Culinary Academy a chance to serve real, paying customers, and for the most part they're up to the challenge. The lunch deal (\$10.95 for three courses) is a good one, and the kitchen handles the more difficult cases, such as fish, with

considerable skill and some art. Service can be erratic. (P.R., 7/99) 635 Polk (at Turk), S.F. California, L/D, \$, AE/MC/V.

Hayes Valley
Arlequin offers light Provençal and Mediterranean food for takeout, but the best place to take your stuff is to the sunny, tranquil to take your stuff is to the sunny, tranquil garden in the rear. There's a nice version of croque monsieur, irresistible fried chickpeas, and, for oenophiles, an adjoining wine shop, Amphora. (P.R., 3/00) 384B Hayes (at Gough), S.F. 863-0926. Mediterranean, B/L/D, ¢, MC/V.

Destino reweaves traditional Peruvian flavors into a tapestry of extraordinary vivid-ness and style, and the storefront interior has been given a golden glow that would have satisfied the most restless conquistador Campy desserts include an irresistible, bûche-de-Noël-like "Latino lover." (P.R., 6/00) 1815 Market (at Guerrero), S.F. 552-4451. Peruvian, D, \$\$\$, MC/V.

4451. Peruvian, D, \$\$\$, MC/V. •
Hayes Street Grill still offers a workable formula: the best fish, prepared with conservative expertise and offered with a choice of sauce and excellent pommes frites. An old, reliable friend. (P.R., 4/99) 320 Hayes (at Franklin), S.F. 863-5545. Seafood, L/D, \$\$, AE/DC/DISC/MC/V.
Suppenküche has a Busvan for Bargains, but bar block look that gives context to its

butcher-block look that gives context to its German cuisine. If you like schnitzel, brats, roasted potatoes, eggs, cheese, cucumber salad, cold cuts, and cold beer, you'll love it here. (P.R., 5/00) 601 Hayes (at Laguna), S.F. 252-9289. German, BR/D, \$, AE/MC/V.

Terra Brazilis Bistro The Brazilian menu ranges from such traditional items as feijoada (the black-bean stew) to tuna loin skewered on a sugar cane, then grilled. The restaurant's city-slick design is a warm, welcoming assemblage of exposed brick, honey-colored wood, and plate glass. (P.R., 1/00) 602 Hayes (at Laguna), S.F. 241-1900. Brazilian, BR/D, \$\$, AE/CB/DISC/MC/

Zuni The old standbys are reliable, though the famous burger could do with a bit less focaccia, and the oddly greasy Caesar salad is far from the best in town. The best dishes are Italian in their simplicity and pureness. (P.R., 7/99) 1658 Market (at Franklin), S.F. 552-2522. California, B/L/D, \$\$\$, AE/MC/V.

#### Castro, Noe Valley, Glen Park

Alice's sits on an obscure corner of outer Noe Valley, but the Chinese food is reliably fresh, tasty, and cheap. The decor is surprisingly elegant, too: Wedgwood place settings and displays of blown glass. (P.R., 7/00) 1599 Sanchez (at 29th St.), S.F. 282-8999. Chinese, L/D, \$, MC/V.

Amberjack Sushi is like a miniature version of Blowfish or Tokyo Go Go. The more complex dishes, such as a tuna-sashimi tartare with lemon olive oil, are better than the simple, traditional stuff, which can be overchilled. Fine service, moderate prices. (P.R., 1/00) 1497 Church (at 27th St.), S.F. 920-1797. Japanese, L/D, \$, AE/MC/V.

Bacco breathes north-Italian authenticity.

from the terra-cotta-colored walls to the traitional but vivid veal preparations. One of the best neighborhood Italian restaurants in town. (P.R., 7/00) 737 Diamond (at 24th St.), S.F. 282-4969. Italian, D., \$\$, MC/V.

Chow With a comfortable, tavernish feel, Chow serves up an easy Californian blend of American and Italian favorites, with a few Asian elements through into the mix. There's

Asian elements thrown into the mix. There's adaly sandwich special, salads, numerous pastas, pizzas, grilled chicken done two ways, and of course, a burger, listed here as a "royale with cheese." (S.R., 7/97) 215 Church (at Market), S.F. 552-2469. California, L/D,

green neon sign is a beacon to Noe Val-leyites, who risk losing their overnight park-ing to dig into the likes of mango shrimp, hoisin green beans, and spicy eggplant with chicken in this hright, airy space. (S.R., 9/96) 1500 Church (at 27th St.), S.F. 282-0919. Chinese, L/D, \$, MC/V.

Johnfrank The menu here is a set of celebratory variations on a simple theme of meat and potatoes. The adjoining parking lot is a welcome touch. (P.R., 12/99) 2100 Market (at Church), S.F. 503-0333. American, D, \$\$,

Nirvana True to its name, pan-Asian noodle house Nirvana offers a peaceful respite from busy Castro streets. Although noodles make up the bulk of the menu, there's also a list of entrees that range from stir-fried jicama to Gastro (at 18th St.), S.F. 861-2226. Pan-Asian, L/D, \$, MC/V.

2223 could easily be a happening queer har,

what with all that male energy. But the American menu joins familiarity with high party where you're bound to meet some-body hot. (P.R., 10/00) 2223 Market (at Noe), S.F. 431-0692. American, BR/D, \$\$, AE/DC/MC/V.

Valentine's Cafe still packs them in after five years and despite an increasingly competitive environment. The best dishes — and that's most of them — are meatless in origin: dal, linguine puttanesca (with only the anchovies omitted), black-bean quesadillas

anchovies omitted), black-bean quesadillas. Surprisingly bewitching desserts. (P.R., 8/00) 1793 Church (at 30th St.), S.F. 285-2257. Vegetarian, BR/D, \$, AE/MC/V.

Zodiac Club numbers quite a few local chefs among its patrons, and that ought to tell you something about the quality of the eastern Mediterranean-influenced food. Lots of lamb, imaginatively handled, in a way-cool atmosphere of ultraviolet light. Another atmosphere of ultraviolet light. Another plus: not much price inflation. (P.R., 3/00) 718 14th St. (at Church), S.F. 626-7827. Cali-fornia, D, \$\$, MC/V.

#### Haight, Cole Valley, **Western Addition**

Western Addition

Alamo Square With its appealing but unfussy decor, welcoming service, and gentle prices, Alamo Square is an archetype for the "good little place around the corner." Five different kinds of fish are offered next to three cooking techniques and five sauces. (S.R., 4/98) 803 Fillmore (at Grove), S.F. 440-2828. Seafood, D, \$, MC/V.

Ali Baba's Cave Veggie shish kehabs are grilled fresh to order, the hummus and baba ghanoush are subtly seasoned and delicious.

ghanoush are subtly seasoned and delicious. (Staff) 531 Haight (at Fillmore), S.F. 255-7820; 799 Valencia (at 19th St.), S.F. 863-3054. Middle Eastern, L/D, C, MC/V.

Asqew Grill reinvents the world of fine fast food on a budget with skewers, served in under 10 minutes for under 10 bucks. The interior design is a little drab, but with the Haight Street scene parading by the windows, you'll never notice. (P.R., 6/99) 1607 Haight (at Clayton), S.F. 701-9301. California, L/D, ¢, MC/V.

Brother-in-Laws Bar-B-Cue always wins the "Best Barbecue" prize in our annual Best of Bay edition: the ribs, chickens, links, and brisket are smoky and succulent; the aroma sucks you in like a tractor beam. (Staff) 705 Divisadero (at Grove), S.F. 931-7427. Barbe-

Caffe Proust feels a bit like a graduate-student lourige, with a decent Italian-influthe trounge, with a decement attain minute enced menu priced as if it were 10 years ago. The "Proust" fries are unbelievably good — far and away the best in town. (P.R., 6/00) 1801 McAllister (at Baker), S.F. 345-9560. Italian, BR/D, \$, AE/MC/TM/V.

Eos serves one of the hest fusion menus in town, but be prepared for scads of yuppies and lots of noise. (P.R., 10/00) 901 Cole (at Carl), S.F. 566-3063. Fusion, D, \$\$, AE/MC/

Magnolia Pub and Brewery A mellow atmosphere and beers that taste distinctly handphere and beers that taste distinctly hand-crafted make great accompaniments to burgers, chicken wings, ale-steamed mus-sels, pizzas, along with some unexpected Cali fusion like grilled soy-sesame eggplant with green onion rice fritters. (S.R., 12/97) 1398 Haight (at Masonic), S.F. 864-PINT. Brew pub, BR/L/D, \$, AE/MC/V. Metro Cafe brings the earthy chic of Paris's 11th arrondissement to the Lower Haight, prix fixe and all. Chrome bistro chairs, veal in lemon sauce, rack of lamb, and croque monsieur all have that City of Light feel, at

monsieur all have that City of Light feel, at notably moderate prices. (P.R., 10/00) 311
Divisadero (at Oak), S.F. 552-0903. French, B/BR/L/D, \$, MC/V.

Red Sea Cafe offers fish and chips - but blow them off in favor of something spicy, Eritrean style, plucked from the plate with a

Continued on page 46

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#### listinas

#### **Eat Here Now**

segment of injera, the spongy, crepelike bread. Shiro, a paste of ground peas and berberé seasonings, will set a joyful blaze in your mouth; curried lamb is excellent. Dim atmospherics. (P.R., 9/00) 494 Haight (at Fillmore), S.F. Eritrean, L/D, \$\, AE/MC/V\$.

#### Mission, Bernal Heights. Potrero Hill

Angkor Borei Nicely presented smallish portions of real good food, friendly service, and excellent atmosphere way down on Mission Street. Everything we tried was dee-goddang-licious, including cold Cambodian noodles, sour soup, and shrimp and pineap-ple curry. (D.L., 3/96) 3471 Mission (at Cortland), S.F. 550-8417. **Cambodian**, L/D, \$, AE/DISC/MC/V.

Baobab Bar and Grill A Senegalese hole-inthe-wall, Baobab serves great-tasting West African specialties like couscous, fried plan-

African specialties like couscous, fried plantains, and savory rice dishes for a reasonable price. (D.L., 11/97) 3388 19th St. (at Mission), S.F. 643-3558. African, BR/D, ξ. **Bistro E Europe** is probably the only place in town — and maybe the Bay Area — where you can sample the culinary flourishes of those European wanderers, the Gypsies, or, as they call themselves, Roma. The basic cuisine is Hungarian: lots of paprika, sour cream, schnitzel, and of course, fried bread. A singular experience. (P.R. 8/00) 4901 Missioner Course, fried bread. A singular experience. (P.R., 8/00) 4901 Mission (at France), S.F. 469-5637. Hungarian/

Gypsy, BR/D, \$\$, cash only.

Bombay Ice Cream and Chaat You probably already knew Bombay on Valencia from the brilliant aroma of its market of imported Indian groceries, trinkets, and incense. should also stop in for some Indian chaat – cheap, delicious fast food like samosas and curries. (E.S., 2/98) 552 Valencia (at 16th St.), S.F. 431-1103. Indian takeout, L/D, ¢. Bruno's retains an alluring 1940s feel — lots of red leather booths, dim lighting, a discreet hush — but the food is now higher-end California-Italian, best when simple. Killer bombolini (fresh doughnuts). (P.R. 8/00) 2389 Mission (at 20th St.), S.F. 648-

7701. Cal-Ital, D, \$\$, AE/MC/V.

Burger Joint makes hamburgers like you remember from your childhood, with lettuce, onion, tomato, and mayonnaise. (Staff) 807 Valencia (at 19th St.), S.F. 824-3494. Ameri-

Cafe Arguello soothes jangled urban nerves with an airy space, votive candles, louvered bistro tables, a subtly impressionist paint scheme — and moderately priced Spanish food, from tapas to blockbuster paellas. The place to go when you want to indulge your spontaneity muse. (P.R., 10/00) 1499 Valencia (at 26th St.), S.F. 643-3160. Spanish, D, \$, AE/DC/MC/V.

Cafe Ethiopia It's basically a coffeehouse, serving all the same coffees and teas and Toranis as anyone else. It's just that they also have great, cheap Ethiopian food too. (D.L., 6/97) 878 Valencia (at 20th St.), S.F. 285-2728. Ethiopian, B/L/D, ¢.

Cafe Rico brings a touch of European grace
— high draperies, Picardie glasses on the
marble-topped tables — to a gritty stretch of
14th Street. All the food is prepared in ovens
of one sort or another, and the menu has a or one sort or another, and the ment has a lurching charm, from the plate of nachos to rack of lamb with tomato-mint chutney. (P.R., 5/99) 233A 14th St. (at Natoma), S.F. 522-5353. Eclectic, B/L/D, \$, AE/DC/MC/V. Caffe Cozzolino Get it to go: everything's about two to four bucks more if you eat it there. The vermicelli with tomatoes and there. The vermicelli with tomatoes and basil and garlic (\$8) was pretty goddamn delicious. The spaghetti with clam sauce (\$9), on the other hand, was pretty goddamn weak. (D.L., 6/98) 300 Precita, S.F. 285-6005. Italian, L/D, \$, AE/MC/V.

Il Cantuccio strikingly evokes that little trat-toria you found near the Ponte Vecchio on your last trip to Florence. Lovely pastas, pizza, salads, and risottos, and a lethally good chocolate tart for dessert. (P.R., 11/00) 3228 16th St. (at Guerrero). 861-3889. Ital-

ian, D, \$, MC/V.

Delfina If you like your restaurants loud, you'll love Delfina. Luckily the Tuscan-influenced food is every bit the equal of the roar. Fish dishes flirt with spectacular, as does the deceptively unassuming buttermilk panna cotta. (P.R., 1/99) 3621 18th St. (at Guerrero), S.F. 552-4055. California, D, \$\$,

Foreign Cinema really does show foreign cinema, and the effect, in a semi-outdoorsy patio under transparent pavilions, is power-fully romantic. The straightforward California cuisine is better than you'd expect. There's plenty of meat for carnivores; vege tarian dishes are a little thin. (P.R., 2/00) 2534 Mission (at 21st St.), S.F. 648-7600. California, D, \$\$, AE/MC/V.

42° still serves up a panoply of Mediter-ranean dishes as various and imaginative as you'll find in the city. The free parking lot (behind the Esprit center) is the automotive equivalent of winning the lottery. The restaurant offers live jazz, so beware the noise. (P.R., 12/99) 235 16th St. (at Illinois), S.F. 777-5559. Mediterranean, D, \$\$\$, AE/MC/V.

Garibaldi Cafe Great service without the attitude and a wonderfully eclectic menu that often includes spicy pastas, grilled halibut, tandoori lamb, smoked chicken quesadillas, and filet mignon with peppercorns. (Staff) 1600 17th St. (at Wisconsin), S.F. 552-3325 California/Mediterranean, L/D, \$\$, AE/DC/

Gordon's House of Fine Eats The menu di vides into five flights, one of which, "local showcase," holds the most interest, including a fine fromage tart. The homemade s'more may not be the best in town, but it's among the biggest. (P.R., 6/99) 500 Florida (at Mariposa), S.F. 861-8900. California, L/D,

Joe's Cable Car is the place where "Joe grinds his own fresh meat daily," and it shows. Fill up with a thick milkshake on the side, but skip the disappointing fries. (Staff) 4320 Mission (at Silver), S.F. 334-6699.

American, L/D, \$, MC/V.

The Liberties reinvents the Irish pub for millennial, digital times. The interior design evokes a 19th-century steamship; the food mostly tasty, honest renditions of meat and potatoes — has an unmistakable mas-culine cast. Best bets: baby back ribs, fish and chips. (P.R., 4/00) 998 Guerrero (at 22nd St.), S.F. Irish, BR/L/D, \$, AE/DC/DS/

Liberty Cafe specializes in simple, perfect food: a Caesar salad that outshines all others; the best chicken pot pie in the city; and down-home desserts even a bake sale in lowa couldn't beat. (S.R., 5/98) 410 Cortland

(at Bennington), S.F. 695-8777. American, BR/L/D, \$-\$\$, AE/MC/V. **Luna Park** bubbles over with the new Mission's nouveau riche, but even so, the food is exceptionally satisfying and not too expensive. Whether it's the grilled king salmon, the braised lamb shank, or the homemade s'mores, you'll have to look hard to find any-thing amiss. (P.R., 8/00) 694 Valencia (at 18th St.), S.F. 553-8584. Californian, L/D, \$,

Mariachl's serves up its fare in a cheery pas-tel-painted space, and its chalkboard menu rooms, pineapple, and pesto. (E.S., 1/98) 508
Valencia (at 16th St.), S.F. 621-4358. Mexican, L/D, ¢.

Kindo Perú dishes up mom-style cooking, Peruvian style, in illimitable portions. The shrimp chowder is astounding. Lots of tapas, too. (P.R., 3/00) 3226 Mission (at Valencia), S.F. 642-4897. Peruvian, L/D, S, MC/

Mission Villa is the oldest Mexican restaumission vilia is the oldest mexican restaurant in San Francisco. It's 90 years old, but it has a menu with interesting new dishes to complement the standard traditional fare. (D.L., 11/96) 2391 Mission (at 20th St.), S.F. 826-0454. Mexican, L/D, \$, MC/V.

Moki's Sushi and Pacific Grill serves imaginate of the standard process.

MOKI'S SUSII and Pacific Grill serves imaginative specialty makis along with items from a pan-Asian grill in a small, bustling neighborhood spot. The kitchen's timing can sometimes be erratic, but the fiesh, flavorful food is worth the wait. (Staff) 830 Cortland (at Gates), S.F. 970-9336. Japanese, D, SS, AE/DC/MC/V.

NeO The all-white decor is a bit odd, if soothing, but it does provide a clean back-drop for the kitchen's clarion flavors. Virtually every dish delivers the goods, from gnocchi dressed with rabbit Bolognese sauce to braised pork shank nestled in mashed potatoes with a simple pan-deglazed jus. (P.R., 12/99) 1007 Guerrero (at



www.kitarosushi.citysearch.com

listings

22nd St.), S.F. 643-3119. American, D. \$\$.

New Central Restaurant is the kind of place you'd find Richie and the Fonz hanging out if they were Latino. The kitchen serves Mexican comfort food, while ambience flows from the jukebox near the door. (P.R. 3/00) 399 South Van Ness (at 14th St.), S.F. 255-8247 or 621-9608. Mexican, B/L, ¢,

North Star is younger sibling to Firefly and has the same sort of seamless menu. The food ranges from excellent hummus with grilled curried flat bread to a cheeseburger with fries, and the setting is flush with a quiet yellow beauty, like morning sunshine (P.R., 3/99) 288 Connecticut (at 18th St.), S.F. 551-9840. California, BR/L/D, \$\$, MC/

Pancho Villa The best word for this 16th Street taquería is big, from the large space to the jumbo-size burritos to the grand dinner plates of grilled shrimp. The only small thing is the price. (Staff) 3071 16th St. (a Valencia), S.F. 864-8840. Mexican, BR/L/D,

Pakwan has a little secret: a secluded garden out back. It's the perfect place to enjoy the fiery foods of India and Pakistan. A collection of old bureaus and settees in front lends a pleasant antique-store gloss. (P.R., 6/00) 3180 16th St. (at Guerrero), S.F. 255-2440. Indian/Pakistani, L/D, ⊄, cash only.

Potrero Brewing Co. offers nicely upscaled pub food to accompany its smooth, fresh microbrews. The sprawling outdoor terrace
— a bow to the neighborhood's relatively sunny, warm weather — rivals that of MoMo's. (P.R., 6/99) 535 Florida (at Mariposa), S.F. 552-1967. American, L/D, \$\$, AE/ MC/V.

Scenic India Assuage your Indian food cravings with spicy chicken or lamb from the tandoori oven at this reasonably priced spot. (Staff) 532 Valencia (at 16th St.), S.F. 621-7226. Indian, D, \$, AE/DC/

Slanted Door has hosted a food-oriented president, and with reason. Charles Pham's place gives a stylish California elaboration to the foods of Vietnam at prices that remain stubbornly reasonable despite huge popularity. If you want to walk in, try lunch, when the menu is more rustic. (P.R., 5/00) 584 Valencia (at 17th St.), S.F. 861-8032. Vietnamese, L/D, \$\$, MC/V.

Slow Club keeps things simple and direct, and that's always a stylish way to do it. Lots of seasonality (pasta with asparagus and fava beans) and classic preparations (an unbelievably tangy lemon-meringue pie), in a cool, edgy postindustrial space. (P.R., 4/00) 2501 Mariposa (at Hampshire), S.F. 241-9390. California, BR/L/D, \$\$, MC/V.

Sunflower strikes all the right notes of today's Mission: good, inexpensive Viet-namese food in a modish California ambience, with friendly, casual service. Tasty classics, such as barbecued lemongrass beef, are all here, and the lunch specials are a bonan-za for the famished. (P.R., 11/98) 506 Valencia (at 16th St.), S.F. 626-5023. Vietnamese,

Taqueria Can-Cun serves up one of the best veggie burritos in town — delicious, juicy, and huge. (Staff) 2288 Mission (at 19th St.), S.F. 252-9560; 1003 Market (at Sixth St.), S.F. 864-6773. Mexican, L/D, ¢.

3Ring fills the space that used to be Val 21, and the food, now given south-of-France twists, is every hit as good. One killer dessert: the cheesecake, mounted on a chocolate crust and swabbed with a blueberry compote. (P.R., 11/99) 995 Valencia (at 21st St.), S.F. 821-3210. Provençal, D, \$\$,

Ti Couz The menu of entrées here consists exclusively of crepes — from light snacks to full meals, from sweet to savory — served up in a bright, boisterous café environment. (Staff) 3108 16th St. (at Valencia), S.F. 252-

7373. Crepes, BR/L/D, \$, MC/V.

Tokyo Go Go The simplest dishes are the best. Given the location and the thick crowds of people dressed in black, the noise level is surprisingly moderate. You can actually have a conversation here if you want to. (P.R., 3/99) 3174 16th St. (near Guerrero), S.F. 864-2288. Japanese, D, \$\$, MC/V. Universal Cafe As neighborhood secrets go, Universal Cafe is a less well-kept one than most. Its cool industrial style harbors a Cali-

Ital menu with such heartwarming dishes as

cassoulet, fettuccine with grilled salmon and spinach, and crisp-crusted house pizzas. (S.R., 1/98) 2814 19th St. (at Florida), S.F. 821-4608. California, B/L/D, \$\$, AE/MC/V. La Villa Poppl feels like a Tuscan country inn. Each dish gets a little kiss of affectionate attention: fresh marjoram, say, in the risotto beneath poached halibut, or the sage butter in which the day's gnocchi takes its final turn. (P.R., 11/99) 3234 22nd St. (at Mission), S.F. 642-5044. Italian, D, \$\$\$,

Walzwerk bills itself as an "East German" restaurant, but don't be frightened: the food is fresh, clever, tasty, and surprisingly light. First-rate Wiener schnitzel and chick en fricassee; surprisingly tasty salads; carrot and celery root; marinated tomato, cucumber and caulillower. The décor has a defi-Ness (at 15th), S.F. 551-7181. German, D.

Watergate is beautifully appointed, in but-tery paint and wallpaper and dark wood, and the food matches up, from stylish foie gras with verjuice and grapes to an earthy choucroute lightened up with slices of lean pork tenderloin. (P.R., 2/99) 1152 Valencia (at 22nd St.), S.F. 648-6000. California, D, \$\$, AE/MC/V

Zante Pizza and Indian Cuisine is that famous Indian pizza place. Meaning it's got Indian food, it's got pizza, and it's got Indian food, it's got pizza, and it's got Indian pizza. The regular 'za is just ordinary, but the Indian food's great, and the Indian pizza is really great. (D.L., 9/96) 3489 Mission (at Cortland), S.F. 821-3949; 3083 16th St. (at Velezia), S.F. 621-480 (believe J.D.). Valencia), S.F. 621-4189. Indian, L/D, \$, AE/DISC/MC/V.

#### Marina, Pacific Heights

Aram's In this pretty brick courtyard space, start with the mixed mezze platter, then move on to artichoke risotto, grilled rack of lamb, or a wild mushroom-phyllo strudel. (S.R., 5/98) 3665 Sacramento (at Spruce), S.F. 474-8061. Middle Eastern, BR/D, \$\$,

B Spot invites relaxation, from the ceiling fans to the reassuring pub food to the fine smooth beer. There's a decent gumbo for dinner, and plenty of good sandwiches for lunch. (P.R., 6/00) 2301 Fillmore (at Clay), S.F. 614-1111. American, BR/L/D, \$, MC/V **Bistro Aix** is more California than Carcassonne. Thin-crust pizzas, good salads, tender grilled lamb, crackling-skinned roast chicken, pillowy garlic mashed potatoes, and fabulous ratatouille make the terror of parking in this neighborhood at dinnertime almost worth it. (S.R., 5/98) 3340 Steiner (at Chestnut), S.F. 202-0100. California, D, \$\$, AE/DC/MC/V.

Chez Nous fills the French slot in our town's tapas derby, and it does so with imagination, panache, and surprising economy. The menu features touches from around the Mediterranean, but much of the best stuff — croque monsieur, lamb chops with lavender salt — is unmistakably Gallic. (P.R., 5/00) 1911 Fillmore (at Pine), S.F. 441-8044. French, L/D, \$, MC/V.

Curbside Too, younger sibling to the Curbside Cafe, looks like a roadside greasy spoon But come dinnertime the Mexican brunch influences melt into a sublime French sauce-fest. (P.R., 12/98) 2769 Lombard (at Lyon), S.F. 921-4442. French, D, \$\$, AE/MC/V.

Dragon Well looks like an annex of the cavernous Pottery Barn down the street, but its traditional Chinese menu is radiant with fresh ingredients and careful preparation. Prices are modest, the service swift and professional. (P.R., 9/99) 2142 Chestnut (at Pierce), S.F. 474-6888. Chinese, L/D, ¢,

Elite Cafe A welcoming place. The menu has plenty of familiar Creole and Cajun favorites (blackened catfish, gumbo, jambalaya) along with more typical California fare (baby greens in halsamic vinaigrette, grilled salmon). (S.R., 2/98) 2049 Fillmore (at California), S.F. 346-8668. Cajun, BR/D, \$\$,

Ella's serves breakfast, lunch, and supper, but brunch is the real destination at this friendly corner eatery. Start the day right with superlative chicken hash, great house made breads, brandied French toast, and springy buttermilk pancakes. (S.R., 9/97) 500 Presidio (at California), S.F. 441-5669 American, B/BR/L/D, \$, AE/MC/V.

Greens is a vegetarian's fantasy of San Francisco. All the elements that made it famous are still intact: pristine produce, an emphasis on luxury rather than health, that gorgeous view. (M.W., 8/99; Restaurant Poll winner, 1995) Fort Mason Center, Bldg A, Marina at Laguna, S.F. 771-6222. Vegetarian, L/D, \$\$, DISC/MC/V.

Meeting House ought to make anybody's list of ultimate neighborhood California restaurants. The food is precise and hearty, the desserts all-American fantasies, the ambience a lovely balance between old-fashioned and modern. (P.R., 9/00) 1701 Octavia (at Bush), S.F. 922-6733. California, D, \$\$\$, AE/

Mezes glows with sunny Greek hospitality,

mezes glows with sunny Greek hospitality, and the plates coming off the grill — pork souvlaki, marinated prawns — are terrific, though not huge. Bulk up with a fine Greek salad. (P.R., 6/00) 2373 Chestnut (at Divisadero), S.F. 409-7111. Greek, D., \$, MC/V. Plump Jack Café II you had to take your parents to dinner in the Marina, this would be the place. A plush postmodern interior design, stylishly earthy food, and of course the famous wine list with its drastic dis counts make PlumpJack a small but authentic jewel. (P.R., 4/99) 3127 Fillmore (at Filbert), S.F. 563-4755. California, L/D, \$\$, AE/

Rose's Cafe has a flexible, all-day menu that starts with breakfast sandwiches, moves into bruschettas, salads, and pizzas, and finishes the day with grilled dinner specials like salmon, chicken, and flat-iron steak. And, of course, owner Reed Hearon's famous ironskillet-roasted mussels. (S.R., 5/97) 2298 Union (at Steiner), S.F. 775-2200. California, B/L/D, \$, AE/DC/DISC/MC/V.

Rosti Getting half a chicken along with roasted potatoes and an assortment of vegetables for \$7.95 in the Marina is cause for celebration in itself. Lots of antipasti, remarkahly delicate homemade pastas, and good grills. (S.R., 2/97) 2060 Chestnut (at Steiner), S.F. 929-9300. Italian, L/D, \$, AE/

Saji Japanese Cuisine It would a crime not to eat the amazingly good raw fish here. Sit at the sushi bar and ask the resident sushi makers what's particularly good that day. As for the hot dishes, seafood yosenabe, served in a clay pot, is a virtual Discovery Channel of finned and scaly beasts, all tasty and fresh. (S.R., 1/98) 3232 Scott (at Lombard), S.F.

931-0563. Japanese, D, \$, AE/DC/MC/V. Sushi Groove is easily as cool as its name Behind wasabi-green velvet curtains, salads can be inconsistent but the sushi is impeccable, especially the silky salmon and special white tuna nigiri. (S.R., 5/97) 1916 Hyde (at Union), S.F. 440-1905. Japanese, D, \$, AE/ DC/DISC/MC/V.

Takara moves its high-quality Japanese food quickly, so if you need to catch a flick at the nearby AMC Kabuki, it's just the place. The menu offers plenty of sushi and sashimi, as well as udon, broiled items, and the occasional curiosity such as grated yam. (P.R., 9/00) 22 Peace Plaza #202 (Japan Center), S.F. 921-2000. Japanese, L/D, \$, MC/V.

**Trapdoor** If it's tapas American-style that you seek, then Trapdoor's the place. The eclectic American food is cheap and for the most part very satisfying: a lovely chicken and dumpling stew, linguine with mussels and wild mushrooms, an excellent cheese-burger. (P.R., 1/99) 3251 Scott (at Chestnut), 776-1928. American, D, \$, AE/MC/V Via Vai The highly regarded Pane e Vino has opened a casual little sister named Via Vai, specializing in wood oven-fired pizzas and reasonably priced pastas. While the extensive menu may have few surprises, it's also solidly satisfying. (S.R., 4/98) 171S Union (at Gough), S.F. 441-2111. Italian, L/D, \$,

ZAO Noodle Bar manages the seemingly impossible: the food's good, cheap, fresh; the service is friendly; there's an inexpensive parking lot half a block away. (P.R., 8/99) 2406 California (at Fillmore), S.F. 345-8088. Asian, L/D, ¢, MC/V

Zinzino is an elegant addition to the restau-rant-heavy Marina, with a snappy decor reminiscent of an Italian sidewalk café. The menu offers blistery-crusted pizzas, roasted meat and fish, and a silky wild mushroom lasagna. (S.R., 8/97) 2355 Chestnut (at Divisadero), S.F. 346-6623. Italian, D, \$\$, AE/

Continued on page 48



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#### **Eat Here Now**

Blue Tortilla If you like fish tacos and are having trouble finding them, this could be the place. The cantina surroundings have a lively L.A. gloss; service is attentive and friendly. (P.R., 1/99) 641 Irving (at Eighth Ave.), S.F. 566-5515. Mexican, BR/L/D, \$, AE/DC/MC/V.

Bocca Rotis The Italian food in this lovely West Portal space can be memorahle, especially the desserts, which are reliably fine. If in doubt, stick to pasta over roast chick en. (P.R., 10/98) 1 West Portal (at Ulloa), S.F. 665-9900. Italian, BR/L/D, \$\$, MC/V. Cale for All Seasons reflects the friendly vibrance of its West Portal neighborhood Everyone is welcome, from grandparents to small children to big fuzzy bears on a date. The California comfort food doesn't set off fireworks, but it's reliably good and fresh. The perfect place to go with your parents. (P.R., 5/00) 150 West Portal (at Vicente), S.F. 665-0900. California, L/D, \$\$, AE/MC/V.

Einstein's Cafe is a colorfully quirky spot run by Youth Industry, the nonprofit group that creates businesses to give "on-the-job training to inner-city youth." It makes amazing homemade bread, gigantic real-stuff salads, and soups of the days. (D.L., 9/97) 1336 Ninth Ave. (between Judah and Irving), S.F. 665-4840. American, L/D, ¢. Hotel is a marvel of great Japanese fare combined with efficient, accommodating service. Four types of noodles are the foundation around which swirl lively broths, each topped with compelling ingredients, such as delicate tempura, fresh seafood, tofu, or sliced beef. (Staff) 1290 Ninth Ave. (at Irving). 753-6045. Japanese, L/D, ¢, AE/DC/MC/V.

House on Ninth An intimate, low-ceilinged entrance area opens into a spacious, dramatically proportioned room lit with skylights. Small plates work the Asian-fusion ingnts. Small plates work the Asian-tusion theme best here, like grilled scallops with mango salad and green bean tempura. (S.R., 5/97) 1269 Ninth Ave. (at Irving), S.F. 682-3898. Fusion, L/D, \$\$, AE/MC/V.

Marnee Thai A friendly, low-key neighborhood restaurant that just happens to serve some of the best Thai food in town. The kitchen turns out such unusual dishes as a fresh corn-cakes appetizer and curried fish mousse wrapped in banana leaves. (Staff) 2225 Irving (at 23rd Ave.), S.F. 665-9500. Thai, L/D, \$, AE/MC/V. Organica This may be the only restaurant of

its kind in the Bay Area — an upscale "live food" restaurant, where none of the healthy vegan cuisine is cooked. (Staff) 1224 Ninth Ave. (at Lincoln), S.F. 665-6519. Vegetarian, L/D, \$, AE/MC/V.

Park Chow Eelectic home cooking with style, at habit-forming prices. Chow could

probably thrive on its basic dishes, like the burger royale with cheese (\$6.95), but if you're willing to spend an extra five bucks or so, the kitchen can really flash you some thigh. (P.R., 10/98) 1240 Ninth Ave. (at Lincoln), S.F. 665-9912. California, BR/L/D, \$,

P.J.'s Oyster Bed Of all the U.S. regional cultures, southern Louisiana's may be the most beloved, and at P.J.'s you can taste why. (Staff) 737 Irving (at Ninth Ave.), S.F. 566-7775. Seafood, L/D, \$\$, AE/DC/DISC/

Pomelo The chefs in this itsy-bitsy restaurant serve up big portions of Asian- and something quick, cheap, and fresh, pop in here. Lunch is less crowded than dinner. (Liz Hille, 6/00) 92 Judah (at 6th Ave.), S.F. 731-6175. Noodles, L/D, \$, cash only.

Prevot's serves a dud-free French-Italian

menu with lots of traditional favorites spaghetti Bolognese, sole meunière — along with a few vegetarian offerings, such as pumpkin ravioli. Desserts emphasize boozy sauces. (P.R., 12/98) 400 Dewey (at Wood-side), S.F. 661-9210. Continental, D, \$\$, AE/

Tennessee Grill could as easily be called the Topeka Grill, since its atmosphere is redolent of Middle America. Belly up to the salad bar for huge helpings of the basics to accompany your meat loaf or calf's liver. (P.R., 7/00) 1128 Taraval (at 22nd Ave), S.F. 664-7834. American, B/L/D, \$, MC/V

Yum Yum Fish is basically a fish store: three or four little tables with fish-print table-cloths under glass, fish-chart art along the wall, and fish-price signs all over the place. (D.L. 10/98) 2181 Irving (at 23rd Ave.), S.F. 566-6433. Sushi, L/D, ¢

#### Richmond

Al-Masri suggests, in food and ambience, the many influences that have swept across the Nile delta: feta cheese and olives from Greece, or a quasi-Indian stew of peas and tomatoes, served with basmati rice. It's all pretty wonderful, and reasonably priced. (P.R., 2/00) 4031 Balboa (at 41st Ave.), S.F. 876-2300. Egyptian, D, \$, AE/DS/MC/V. Biru Biru adds a bit of hipster luster to the inner Richmond's restaurant row along Balboa. Excellent sushi with sly touches — a

inner Richmond's restaurant row along Balboa. Excellent sushi with sly touches — a sprig of mint in a spider roll, say. A good soundtrack, too. Worth discovering, (P.R., 7/00) 446 Balboa (at Fifth Ave.), S.F. 933-7100. Japanese, D, \$, MC/V. Cafe Riggio will slake anyone's cravings for classic Italian conifort food. Prices are moderate, service informal but attentive, the setting attractive in a well kept-up 1970s style. Two fine dishes: veal scallops, Milanese style, and the criminally rich brownie. (P.R., 2/00) 4112 Geary (at Fifth Ave.), S.F. 221-2114. Italian, D, \$, MC/V. Chapeau! serves some of the best food in

Chapeau! serves some of the best food in the city — at shockingly reasonable prices. The French cooking reflects as much style and imagination as any California menu, and the service achieves an almost Masa's-like precision. (P.R., 10/98) 1408 Clement (at 15th Ave.), S.F. 750-9787. French, D, \$\$, AE/DC/MC/V.

Clement St. Bar and Grill The high-backed booths spell romance at this always crowded spot. Grilled fish dishes snap with flavor, and there are always a couple of delicioussounding vegetarian options. (Staff) 708
Clement (at Eighth Ave.), S.F. 386-2200.
American, L/D, \$-\$\$, AE/DC/DISC/MC/V.
Clémentine offers comfortable sophistication at a fair price. The pain perdution at a fair price. The pain perdu—brioche French toast dusted with powdered sugar and accompanied by apple compote and hazelnut ice cream—is one of those desserts that you'll remember eating 10 years later. Go for the free valet parking. (P.R., 3/99) 126 Clement (at Second Ave.), S.F. 387-0408. French, BR/D, \$\$, MC/V.

Oong Hue serves a Vietnamese menu untouched by California faddishness. Plenty of seafood, especially shrimp, is on offer, but there's lots of meat and poultry, too, includthere's lots of meat and poultry, too, including rich five-spice chicken. Clean, spare surroundings; very swift service. (P.R., 5/00) 2110 Clement (at 22nd Ave.), S.F. 221-1880. Vietnamese, L/D, ¢, MC/V.

Kitaro This Japanese restaurant, unlike many others, has a lot of options for vegetarians. A bento box of crispy vegetarian tempura and a big platter of veggie sushi (including avocado, eggplant, pumpkin, and asparagus) will set you right up. (E.S., 12/97) 5850 Geary (at 22nd Ave.), S.F. 386-2777. Japanese, L/D, 4, MC/V.

Mai's Restaurant On the basis of the hot-and-sour shrimp soup with pineapple alone, Mai's deserves a line out the door. (D.L., 3/97) 316 Clement (at Fourth Ave.) S.F. 221-3046. Vietnamese, L/D, ¢, AE/DC/

Mandalay Restaurant features reasonably priced Burmese food like fish chowder, mango chicken, and ginger salad. (D.L., 4/99) 4348 California (at Sixth Ave.), S.F. 386-3896. **Bu**rmese, L/D, ¢, MC/V.

Natori fulfills the dreams of those who crave sushi but can never get enough. Here it's all you can eat; you'll get enough. It's good, too, though not fancy. Plenty of other Asian dishes are on offer, from kimchee to porkfried rice. (P.R., 4/00) 327 Balboa (at Fourth Ave.), S.F. 387-2565. Japanese, L/D, \$, A.E./

Okina Sushl is resolutely discreet and oldfashioned, from the bamboo screens on the Tashioled, from the bamboo screens on the windows to the simple wood bar at the back. Don't expect rolls with cute names; the star here is the fish, minimally adorned and pristine. (P.R., 9/98) 776 Arguello (at Cabrillo), S.F. 387-8882. Japanese, D. 4. Pacific Cafe serves simple, reliable scalood in an atmosphere reduced of 1974, when it in an atmosphere redolent of 1974, when it opened. Lots of dark wood and faintly psychedelic glass in the windows; free wine while you wait. (P.R., 10/98) 7000 Geary (at 34th Ave.), S.F. 387-7091. Seafood, D, \$\$, AE/DC/DISC/MC/V. Singapore Malaysian Restaurant eschews

decor for cheap, tasty plates of Straits Chinese cooking, where you'll find flavors ranging from Indian to Dutch colonial to Thai. Seafood predominates in curries, soup grills, and plenty of rice and noodle dishes. (S.R., 4/97) 836 Clement (at Seventh Ave.), S.F. 750-9518. Malaysian, L/D, ¢, MC/V. Straits Cafe has a slightly campy faux-tropical decor, but its Singaporean menu is a kaleidoscope of mingled satisfactions. A touch of Indian curry here, Thai coconut milk and kaffir lime there; masterful demilk and kattir lime there; masteriul de-ployment of unusual ingredients all the way to a dessert of rice pudding in palm sugar syrup. (P.R., 8/99) 3300 Geary (at Parker), S.E. 668-1783. Singaporean, L/D, \$, AE/DC/

MC/V.

Tawan's Thai Food It's tiny, it's cute, the prices are reasonable, and the food is tasty. Tom yum is right up there in the gold-star soup pantheon, and the silver noodle salad, soup pantheon, and the silver noodle salad, skewered tofu in red curry, and eggplant with onions, chilies, and basil are all worth walking the length of Geary barefoot for. (S.R., 8/97) 4403 Geary (at Eighth Ave.), S.F. 751-5175. Thai, L/D, \$, AE/DC/MC/V. Thai Time proves that good things come in little packages. The place is tiny, and the food is tremendous, especially the hor moke that a seafood medley in corony ted.

talay, a seafood medley in coconut red-curry sauce cooked in a coconut shell. Even more familiar Thai standards are rendered with force and verve. (P.R., 9/00) 315 Eighth Ave. (at Clement), S.F. 831-3663. Thai, L/D, \$, AE/MC/V.

Traktir serves as a kind of town hall for the local Russian community, but the food has a distinct international flavor: dolma, feta-cheese salad, Georgian wine, curry-spiked pieces of cold chicken. For traditionalists, there's borscht, vareniki, and salyanka, the famous soup of sausage and pickles. (P.R., 8/00) 4036 Balboa (at 36th Ave.), S.F. 386-9800. Russian, D, \$, MC/V.

#### **Bayview**, Hunters Point, and south

Cable Car Coffee Shop Atmospherically speaking, you're looking at your basic downtown South San Fran. old-style joint, one that serves a great Pacific Scramble for \$4.95 and the most perfectest hash browns to be tasted. (D.L., 3/98) 423<sup>1</sup>/2 Grand, South S.F. (650) 952-9533. American, B/

Cliff's Bar-B-Q and Seafood Some things Cliff's got going for him: excellent mustard greens, just drenched in flavorfulness; and barbecued you-name-it. Brisket. Rib tips. Hot links. Pork ribs. Beef ribs. Baby backs. And then there're fried chickens and, by way of health food, fried fishes. (D.L., 2/98) 2177 Bayshore (at Blanken), S.F. 330-0736.

Barbecue, L/D, ¢, AE/DC/MC/V.

Gravy's Gravy calls himself the "Gumbo Specialist," and he might be right. It goes for \$8, depending on how much you want — a lot, or a whole honkin-duty lot — and it includes thell and all care house. it includes shell-and-all crab chunks, boneand-all chicken parts, and sausage and stuff. (D.L., 10/97) 2511 Geneva (at Pueblo), Daly City. 337-9122. Soul food, L/D, ⊄.

JoAnn's Cafe and Pantry has gotten some word-of-mouth recommendations as a dive, but it serves upscale breakfasts with decidedly nondive sides like low-fat chicken basil sausage, bagels, and homemade muffins and scones. (D.L., 12/97) 1131 El Camino Real, South S.F. (650) 872-2810. American,

Outback Cafe is located way down in with Outback Cate is located way down in with all them warehouses at the end of Revere Street. I found the fare delectable. I got a double cheeseburger and a cup of soup. Don't let what I got fool you, though. This is gournet stuff. (D.L., 7/94; Restaurant Poll winner, 1995) 1099C Revere (at Griffith), S.F. 822-8119. Café, B/L, c.

Peking Wok is a great Chinese dive in Bayview, right smack on the way to Candlestick. Not counting the 18 special combos for \$3.25—\$4.50, there are 109 items on the Peking Wok menu. At least 101 of them are under five bucks. (D.L., 1/99) 4920 Third St. (at Palou), S.F. 822-1818. Chinese, L/D, ©. Soo Fong features good inexpensive Chinese food. For the heat-seeking diner, its fiery

Continued on page 50

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#### listings

#### Eat Here Now

Szechuan specialties will hit the spot. Nice chow fun and other noodle dishes, too. (Staff) Bayview Plaza, 3801 Third St. (at Evans), S.F. 285-2828. Chinese, L/D, 4. Yogurt Expressions The real stars here are the homemade pastries. The more health-conscious can choose from several smoothies and protein drinks. Pizza, sandwiches, and breakfast round out the menu. (Staff) Bayview Plaza, 3801 Third St. (at Evans),

S.F. 642-9260. Café, B/L/D, ¢. Young's Cafe A restaurant full of cheap, big, decent Chinese food, Young's serves up 15 rice dishes, most of them \$2.95, and 64 other standard Chinese things. Only four of those are more than five bucks. (D.L., 12/97) 732 22nd St. (at Third St.) S.F. 285-6046. Chinese, L/D, ¢.

#### Berkeley, Emeryville, and north

**Ajanta** offers a variety of deftly seasoned regional dishes from the Asian subcontinent. The harmonious ambience is rounded off by attentive service, and everything benefits from unique flavors and elegant presenta-tion. (D.R., 11/98) 1888 Solano, Berk. (510) 526-4373. Indian, L/D, \$, AE/DC/DISC/

A La Carte features Nathan and Katherine Cheng's notion of home-cooked meals, ranging from such Creole-inspired fare as chicken and andouille sausage gumbo to macaroni and cheese. Great side dishes and desserts, reasonable prices, and personalized service. (D.R., 1/99) 1453 Dwight (at Sacramento), Berk. (510) 548-2322. Creole, D, \$. MC/V. Bathroom not wheelchair accessible Anna's is the rare place where the fare serves the higher purpose of fostering community. Almost half the menu is dedicated to color-ful and tasty salads, and any minor pitfalls are transcended by virtue of owner-singer Anna de Leon's homemade soups and the eclectic selection of desserts. (D.R., 3/98) 1801 University (at Grant), Berk. (510) 849-2662. Café, L/D, ¢, AE/DC/MC/V.

Breads of India and Gourmet Curries The menu changes every day, so nothing is re-frigerated overnight, and the curries benefit from obvious loving care. The daily offerings include one lamb, one chicken, and two vegetarian curries, as well as one tandoori specialty. (D.R., 10/97) 2448 Sacramento (at Dwight), Berk. (510) 848-7684. Indian, L/

Bobby's Backdoor Cajun BBQ has some of the best and cheapest barbecue in the Bay Area. And as good as the BBQ is, the best thing about Bobby's is the atmosphere: live Cajun music and blues, dancing, and a Ping-Pong table. (D.L., 1/99) 12891 San Pablo, Richmond. (510) 232-9299. Barbe-

Café de la Paz Specialties include African-Brazilian "xim xim" curries, Venezuelan corn pancakes, garnachas de pollo, arepas corn pancakes, garnachas de polio, airepas, fried plantain, jalapeño cornbread, Ecuadoran stuffed potato cakes, grilled prawns, delicious black beans, and heavenly blackened seacakes served with orange-onion yogurt. (D.R., 10/98) 1600 Shattuck (at Cedar), Berk. (510) 843-0662. Latin American, BR/ L/D & AE/MC/V

Café La Peña nurtures the spirit as much as it pleases the palate. Such hearty main dishes as Chilean lamb stew and paella reflect the kitchen's generosity more than its creativity with spices. (D.R., 6/98) 3105 Shat tuck (near Prince), Berk. (510) 849-4846. Latin American, D, \$, DC/MC/V.

César You'll be tempted to nibble for hours from Chez Panisse-related César's Spanishthe addictive sage-and-rosemary-flecked fried potatoes. (D.R., 8/98) 1515 Shattuck (near Vine), Berk. (510) 883-0222. Spanish, D, S, DISC/MC/V

Cha-Ya Everything chef-proprietor Atsushi Katsumata makes, from the potstickers and nigiri sushi to the steaming bowls of udon, hews to strict vegan standards. Don't miss hews to strict vegan standards. Don't miss the amazing things Katsumata does with tofu, whether deep-fried or topped with miso sauce in the dengaku. (D.R., 3/00) 1686 Shattuck (at Virginia), Berk. (510) 981-1213. Japanese Vegetarian, D., \$, MC/V. Christopher's Café on Solano Stylishly executed fusion cuisine, often combining Asian, Southwestern, and Mediterranean ingredients in a single dish. Almost every un-usual combination works, with generous helpings smoothly delivered in beautiful presentations. (D.R., 4/99) 1501A Solano (at Curtis), Albany. (510) 525-1668. Fusion, L/D, \$\$, AE/MC/V.

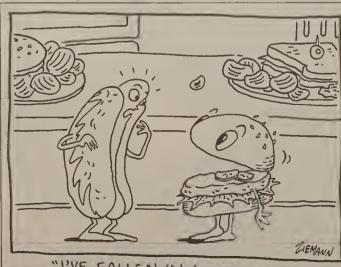
Christopher's Nothing Fancy Cafe Chicken, beef, veggie, and prawn fajitas are the sizzling specialties. Big, thick quesadillas on chipotle tortillas, a peerless chile relleno, and exceptional fresh tomato and tomatillo salsas stand out on a menu of burritos, enchiladas, tacos, and tortilla soup. (D.R., 4/98) 1019 San Pablo (at Marin), Albany. (510) 526-1185. Mexican, L/D, \$, AE/MC/V. (510) 526-1185. Mexican, L/ID, S, AE/MC/V. Clay Pot Seafood House specialties include steaming clay pots full of fascinating broths and such ingredients as meat balls, Chinese sausage, and whole fish. But just about anything on the menu with "garlic," "Shanghai," or "braised" in the name is sure to float your boat. (D.R., 2/99) 809 San Pablo (near Solano), Albany. (510) 559-8976. Chinese,

L/D, \$, DISC/MC/V.

Holy Land transforms falafel, hummus, tahintily Land transforms fataleth, nummus, tanini, tabbouleh, and other Middle Eastern standards into gourmet-quality yet homestyle delights. There's also gracefully seasoned matzo ball soup, delicate schnitzel,

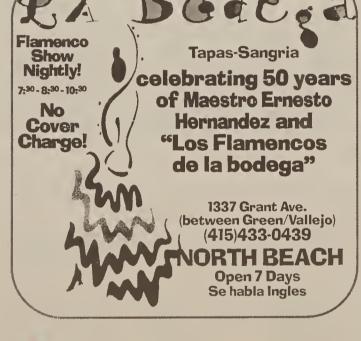
Continued on page 52

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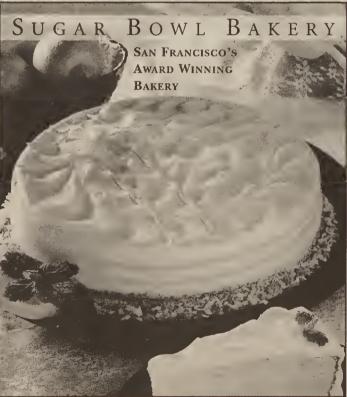
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spicy schwarma, and perfect wide-cut french fries. (D.R., 10/98) 2965 College (at Ashby), Berk. (510) 665-1672. Middle Eastern/Kosher, L/D, \$, AE/DC/MC/V.

La. Bayou serves up an astounding array of authentic New Orleans staples, including jambalaya, red beans and rice, sausage or oyster po-boys, (greaseless!) fried catfish, and homemade pralines. (D.R., 2/99) 3278 Adeline (at Alcatraz), Berk. (510) 594-9302. Cajun/Creole, L/D, ¢-\$, MC/V.

Lalime's is a long-standing institution in East Bay haute cuisine culture, but there's nothing institutional about the attentive service or the creative and gorgeous dishes. Fixed-price dinners are available weeknights along with an 4la carte menu that changes monthly. (D.R., 4/00) 1329 Gilman (at Peralta), Berk. (510) 527-9838. French/Mediterranean, D, \$\$, AE/DC/MC/V. Locanda Olmo Fine versions of risotto, gnocchi, and soft polenta pie, terrific thincrust pizzas, and good traditional desserts have made Locanda Olmo a reliable anchor in the burgeoning Elmwood neighborhood. (D.R., 5/97) 2985 College (near Ashby), Berk. (510) 848-5544. Italian,D, \$, MC/V. Minokichi 5uch dishes as zosui (rice porridge), hamachi nizakana (yellowtail and tofu with teriyaki sauce), and crisp, juicy hamachi kama shioyaki (salted and broiled yellowtail neck) set Minokichi far apart from your standard udon and tempura houses. (D.R., 1/00) 1403 50lano (at

Carmel), Albany. (510) 559-9988. Japanese, \$, AE/MC/V. La Note Unique egg dishes and pancakes, big luncheon salads, fancy baguette sand wiches, and hearty weekend dinners. We found it nearly impossible to find fault with either the ratatouille with spicy merguez lamb sausage or the bow-tie noodles topped with grilled chicken breast strips. (D.R., 2/98) 2337 5hattuck (at Durant), Berk. (510) 843-1535. Country French, B/BR/L, \$\$, AE/MC/V. Rest rooms not wheelchair

Odyssia Caffe and Blstro Don't miss the legendary polenta fries, which come piping hot, dusted with Parmesan, and stacked like Lincoln Logs around a bowl of tomato-herb dipping sauce. (D.R., 7/97) 1849 5hattuck (at Hearst), Berk. (510) 849-1319. Mediter-ranean, B/BR/L/D, \$, MC/V.

Sam's Log Cabin Daily special egg scrambles, great griddle cakes and corn cakes, and exceptional scones and muffins top the morning fare, which also includes gourmet sausage and bacon, hot and cold cereals, and organic coffee. (D.R., 8/99) 945 5an Pablo Ave. (at Buchanan), Berk. (510) 558-0494. American, B/L, ¢, no credit cards. Santa Fe Bar and Grill Entrées include grilled stuffed chicken with butternut squash risotto and seared sea bass, and any meal that starts with a great Caesar salad is headed in the right direction, even if you know the tolls are going to be steep. (D.R., 3/98) 1310 University (between Acton and Bonar), Berk. (510) 841-4740. California/ Mediterranean, BR/L/D, \$\$, AE/DI5C/

VIK's Chaat Corner If you want a cheap and fantastic Indian lunch or dinner, brave the line at the back of VIK Distributors and treat yourself to a great deal. For less than the price of a scone and a latte, you can try lentil dumplings, curries, or a variety of flat or puffed crisp puris with various vegetari-an fillings. (D.R., 12/96) 726 Allston Way, Berk. (510) 644-4412. Indian, L/D, ¢, AE/ DC/DISC/MC/V.

Voulez-Vous distinguishes itself with its airy Parisian-cafe setting and a diverse array of beautifully presented crepes and tarts. If those won't fill you up, you can start with one of the bountiful salads and finish up with one of the superb desserts. (D.R., 2/99) 2930 College (near Ashby), Berk. (510) 548-4708. French, L/D, 4-\$,

AE/DC/DI5C/MC/V.

Zachary's Chicago Pizza The stuffed pizza is Zachary's Officago Pizza in stuffed pizza is simply out of this world — try the Zachary's special sometime. The fact that both Zachary's outlets are always busy speaks for itself. (5taff) 1853 Solano (at Fresno), Berk. (510) 525-5950; 5801 College (at Oak Grove), Berk. (510) 655-6385. Pizza, L/D, \$, AE/MC/V.

#### Oakland and Alameda

Alta Mar is a Veracruz-style seafood spot. Camerones al mojo de ajo are butterflied Camerones at mojo de ajo are butterined and humming with garlic, while pescado frito lived up to the hype. (D.R., 3/97) 1060 E. 12th 5t. (at 11th Ave.), Oakl. (510) 893-5122. Mexican, L/D, \$, AE/DC/MC/V. Arizmendi is a worker-owned bakery where bread rolls out in seemingly infinite varieties — potato, Asiago, sesame-sunflower. The pièce de résistance is the daily thincrust, tomato sauce-free, vegetarian pizza. (D.R., 1/99) 3265 Lakeshore (at Mandana), Oakl. (510) 268-8849. Bakery, B/L/D, ¢. Not wheelchair accessible.

Asena Restaurant Good dishes at Asena, a charming Med/Cal cuisine spot, include in-dividual pizzas, and grilled marinated lamb sirloin in a burgundy-rosemary demi-glace. (D.R., 2/98) 2508 5anta Clara (at Park), Alameda. (510) 521-4100. California/ Mediterranean, L/D, \$\$, AE/MC/V.

Le Cheval 5hrimp rolls and peanut sauce, the fried Dungeness crab, the marinated "orange flavor" beef, the buttery lemongrass prawns — it's all fabulous. (Staff) 1007 Clay (at 10th 5t.), Oakl. (510) 763-8495. Vietnamese, L/D, ¢, MC/V.

Connie's Cantina fashions unique variations on standard Mexican fare — enchiladas, tamales, fajitas, rellenos, fajitas. (D.R., 9/98) 3340 Grand (near Mandana), Oakl. (510)

839-4986. Mexican, L/D, ¢, MC/V. Garibaldi's on College focuses on Mediterranean-style seafood, from tantalizing appetizers (baked oysters, scallop ceviche) to perizers (based oysters, scanop cevicine) to perfectly done entrées (grilled swordfish, spaghetti with scallops and prawns). (D.R., 9/97) 5356 College (near Manilla), Oakl. (510) 595-4000. Mediterranean, L/D, \$\$,

AE/MC/V.

Gerardo's Mexican Restaurant offers all the expected taqueria fare plus breakfast and dinner platters — huevos rancheros, fajitas, camarones a la plancha, pescado dorado. But a main reason to visit this humble storefront is to pick up a dozen of Maria's wonderfully down-home chicken or pork tamales. (D.R., 3/99) 3811 MacArthur (near 35th Ave.), Oakl. (510) 531-5255. Mexican,

Giglio combines a lively yet intimate café at-mosphere with moderately priced thincrust pizzas and wines, hearty pastas, and soups. (D.R., 9/98), 5427 College (at Kales), Oakl. (510) 594-0798. Italian, I/D, \$, AE/MC/V. Not wheelchair accessible.

Kandahar Chef-owner Daud Zaheer invests his Afghan lamb, chicken, and vegetarian dishes with big-time love and attention and presents them beautifully at bargain prices. (D.R., 11/99) 2118 Mount Diablo Blvd. (at Pacheco), Concord. (925) 676-2243. Afghan, L/D, \$, AE/MC/V.

Mama's Royal Cafe Breakfast is the draw

here — even just-coffee-for-me types might succumb when confronted with waffles, French toast, pancakes, tofu scramble, huevos rancheros, and 20 different omelettes. (5.R., 5/98) 4012 Broadway (at 40th St.), Oakl. (510) 547-7600. American,

La Mexicana has a 40-year tradition of stuffing its customers with delicious, simply prepared staples (enchiladas, tacos, tamales, chile rellenos, menudo) and specials (carnitas, chicken mole), all served in generous portions at moderate prices. (D.R., 1/97) 3930 E. 14th 5t., Oakl. (510) 533-8818. Mexican, L/D, ¢, MC/V. Nan Yang offers too many great dishes -

ginger salad, spicy fried potato cakes, co-conut chicken noodle soup, garlic noodles, succulent lamb curry that melts in your mouth — to experience in one visit. (D.R.) 6048 College (at Claremont), Oakl. (510) 655-3298. Burmese, L/D, \$, MC/V. Ninna You'll find steaks, duck breast, and pork loin on the same menu as chicken in yellow curry, as well as such intriguing and successful fusions as penne pasta "pad Thai" style and veal "Ithaila." (D.R., 2/00) 4066 Piedmont (between 40th and 41st Sts.), Oakl. (510) 601-6441. Thai Fusion, L/D, \$-

Oakland Grill remains a cornerstone of Oakland's produce district, offering breakfasts, lunches, and dinners that fall somewhere between hearty blue-collar staples (steaks, pork chops, burgers) and middlebrow gourmet fare (blackened fish, pasta primavera, crepes). (D.R., 6/98) 301 Franklin (at Third 5t.), Oakl. (510) 835-1176. American, B/BR/L/D, \$-\$\$, AE/DC/DI5C/MC/V. Organic Cafe and Macrobiotic Grocery This down-home animal flesh-free zone proves that lentils, pinto beans, garbanzos, and greens have plenty of flavor, as well as nutri greens have pienty of flavor, as well as nutri-tion, when they're prepared with loving care by the Organic Cafe's rotating crew of cooks. (D.R., 11/98) 1050 40th St. (at Ade-line), Oakl. (510) 653-6510. Rest room not wheelchair accessible. Vegetarian, BR/L/D, \$, AE/DI5C/MC/V

Original Kasper's Hot Dogs Occupying the same tiny triangle building since 1947, Harry Yaglijian's humble and supremely Harry Yagiijian's numble and supremely hospitable little stand has one item on the menu—the best hot dog in town. (D.R., 5/98) 4521 Telegraph (at Shattuck), Oakl. (510) 655-3215. American, L/D, ¢. Il Porcellino When faced with a menu like Il Porcellino's, which taunts the hungry diner with number in and ricette maniest.

with pumpkin and ricotta manicotti, swordfish and shrimp ravioli, polenta with meatballs, and leg of lamb filled with ricotta and mint, any concern for health benefits should take a backseat to hedonism. (D.R., 6/97) 6111 La5alle (at Moraga), Oakl. (510) 339-2149. Italian, L/D, \$, AE/DC/D15C/

Restaurante Ooña Tomás offers upscale versions of enchiladas (wild mushroom, zucsions of enchiadas (wild mushroom, zuc-chini, and goat cheese) and carnitas (Niman Ranch pork), as well as tantalizing chicken-lime-cilantro soup and bountiful pozole. (D.R., 10/99) 5004 Telegraph (near 51st 5t.), Oakl. (510) 450-0522. Mexican, BR/D, \$,

Rockridge Café offers at least three good reasons not to eat hamburgers: bountiful breakfasts, a savory meat loaf special, and hearty, unpretentious Acadian cassoulet. But the archetypal hand-crafted burgers, wide-cut fries, and creamy, straw-clogging milkshakes remain the cornerstones of the menu. (D.R., 12/98) 5492 College (at For est), Oakl. (510) 653-1567. American, B/L/

D, \$, MC/V.
Sergio's Trattoria 5ervings are large and presented with no pretense; standards include plates of spaghetti alla 5 iciliana, carrettiera, puttanesca, or con polpettine (meatballs). (D.R., 1/98) 5299 College (at Bryant), Oakl. (510) 655-2869. Italian,D, \$\$, MC/V.

Sophie's offers a limited, occasionally changing menu of nouvelle French-in-spired dishes, from pork tenderloin and spired disties, non point elicited in and duck à l'orange to ginger-soy sea bass and 5 wiss chard ravioli. A good wine list and ex-ceptional starters (seafood beignets) and desserts (classic chocolate mousse, almond bread pudding) round off a completely sat-isfying experience. (D.R., 3/00) 4228 Park Blvd. (at Wellington), Oakl. (510) 482-5303. French, D, \$\$, MC/V.

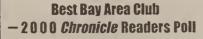
Taqueria Ramiro and Sons typically has customers lined up to the door for (mostly take-out) burritos and tacos and quesadillas. The menu nods to contemporary tastes with black beans and spinach or tomato tortilla options. (D.R., 12/99) 2321 Alameda (at Park), Alameda. (510) 523-5071. Mexi-

Tijuana serves big round bowls and plates teeming with shrimp, crab, octopus, and fish — in cocktails, salads, and soups. The place is usually packed and loud, but friendly servers, good salsa, and Mexican beer at \$2.50 a pop more than compensate for the noise. (D.R., 3/98) 1308 Interna-tional Blvd. (at 13th Ave.), Oakl. (510) 532-5575. Mexican, L/D, \$, MC/V. Not wheelchair accessible.

Tropix After a hunk of warm cornbread Troplx After a hunk of warm cornbread slathered in mango chutney, dig into a heap of spicy grilled jerk chicken, or wallow in the wonders of the shrimp pawpaw: curried vegetables and fat shrimp piled up over meltingly ripe papaya. (5.R., 5/98) 3814 Piedmont (at W. MacArthur), Oakl. (510) 653-2444. Caribbean, L/D, \$, AE/DC/MC/V, Patio not wheelchair accessible. **Veronica's** Regulars fill up the 23 seats for the daily specials of corned beef and cab-

bage or the spicy Friday barbecue, as well as huge portions of "gramma's" meat loaf, "Louisiana style" catfish, "Moon 5hiner's mustard glazed" baked ham, and the few concessions to nouvelle tastes, like the chipotle chicken salad and portabello mushroom sandwiches. (D.R., 2/00) 1601 San Pablo (at 16th St.), Oakl. (510) 834-7161. American, L/D, ¢, DC/V/MC. ❖





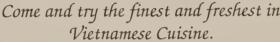
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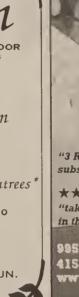






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71 Got It Bad

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All's fair: Love and war (Michelle Rodriguez and Santiago Douglas) make good sparring partners in prizewinner Girlfight.



TL-C: Rob Nilsson's new film in the 9 at Night series, made with the Tenderloin Ygroup of low-income and no-income San Franciscans (Edwin Johnson, right, and Teddy Weiler), was a Stroke of genius.

## 

## Critics' notebooks

## JANUARY

Video projections. By Susan Gerhard

ctober, 1994: I am celebrating my eviction from the last cheap railroad flat in San Francisco. It's 3 a.m., and the partyers have mostly left when a candle falls over on a dresser in a faraway room, which immediately goes up in flames. A semiconscious Parker Posey wanders out of my kitchen, martini in hand, to see what happened and meets a frightened Joaquin Phoenix stepping over a very unconscious Robert Downey Jr. in the hallway, screaming "Get some water!" And I wake up, dehydrated, to realize it's actually January 2000, and I am in fartoo-high-altitude Park City, Utah, sitting on a couch just outside some seminar room at Sundance, giving a dreamremake to a long-forgotten night. But who would fund this?

Inside, Roger Ebert is making a case against the digital video world that would have moviemaking become as easy as a trip to the Good Guys. "Our

digital future" is the topic all over Sundance, and particularly here in this room. Godfrey Cheshire is warning that movie-watching of the future may be nothing more than paying to sit in someone's public rec room and watch TV, supersized. And Ethan Hawke, we are frightened to learn, is representing the artist's point of view. Filmmakers say that what is really at stake is whether they'll be allowed to get their dream film/film dream/vanity project to the screen. The critics, of course, fear what they'll have to watch (see above). I mean, should you really be making movies? Digital technology, the whole \$3,000 D.V.-camera-to-video-projectedbig-screen thing, may be threatening, and promising, too much: a camera in every bike messenger bag? Didn't the big D.V. creations of 2000, Spike Lee's Bamboozled and Mike Figgis's Time Code, fall visually flat?

My friend reports that producer Jason Kliot is arguing that digital gives artists more freedom from itchy investors so that they can make real art. It's a statement that would generally cause us anxiety, except that the movie he's representing, Chuck & Buck, has just melted down audience hearts and molded them into a million-dollar-plus distribution deal. The perverse and perversely sweet film, directed by Sundance alum and Star Maps director Miguel Arteta, cuts through the i-film propaganda that's polluting Sundance from inside diesel buses by offering up a warm, fuzzy, freaky vision of the future of Film, or lack thereof. Created in part by a team of escapees from the too-perfect teen TV/ movie genre - Mike White from Dawson's Creek and the Weitz brothers of American Pie - Chuck & Buck unleashes their years of repression on an industry starved for the next Blair Witch.

As it turns out six long months later, Chuck & Buck will not scare up that kind of attention. It will be released the same July week as Disney's The Kid, which I'm not sure helped it in the final count. While The Kid will engage in the wholesome side of American inner childhood, Chuck & Buck is probably still being closely followed by the FBI. It sides with an emotionally arrested adult who sucks lollipops and really just wants to play doctor with his childhood best friend, who is now a successful, about-to-bewed hetero L.A. music-industry type. To him, the idea of an evening of Scrabble

and "suck and fuck," as Buck puts it to Chuck, does not exactly appeal. Maybe there just isn't the hugest audience for what becomes the stalker movie of the year — nostalgic, funny, and, yes, innocent. But the bug-eyed Mike White (whose life is stranger than his own fiction — he likes to drive himself around in a Lincoln Town Car while wearing a chauffeur's hat and grew up with an exstraight father who once ghostwrote for Jerry Falwell) has created something weird and beautiful as well as digital. It may be a beta tomorrow after all.

#### Susan's top 10

- 1. George Washington, David Gordon Green
- 2. Girlfight, Karyn Kusama
- 3. In the Mood for Love, Wong Kar-wai
- 4. Chuck & Buck, Miguel Arteta
- **5.** Erin Brockovich, Steven Soderbergh
- 6. See the Sea, François Ozon
- 7. Dancer in the Dark, Lars von Trier 8. Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon, Ang Lee
- 9. The Wind Will Carry Us, Abbas Kiarostami
- 10. Just, Melvin, James Ronald Whitney

## FEBRUARY

Pola. X'd. By Edward E. Crouse

OTTERDAM — I've just heard that Sleepy Hollow was to close this Dutch festival, one of a few reasons to hide my Americanness away. A few days were dithered away waiting for mything to happen, walking out of movies, one a sixth-rate Japanese first feature puffed with Wong Kar-wai-isms. This is the millennial malaise everyone was talking about. It's the crowd here that catapulted Jarmusch into the realm of deep-dish comedian - the fall-down boffo comedy ends up being Ghost Dog: Way of the Samurai. Hoots and roars at the line "Indians. Niggers. Same thing." The festival is buzzing neither herbally nor programwise, but I realize that I am just as hit or miss, not being able to decide whether to move, sink, or inhale.



Pola X-files: Isabelle (Katerina Golubeva) gets to know her half brother Pierre (Guillaume Depardieu) in Leos Carax's latest offering.

One moment telescopes in the days spent waiting for news from home. After a visit to a foosball café, a friend orders a ham and cheese sandwich as we sit in the Central Hilton lobby. After 10 minutes that we'd smoked into 90, the waiter returns with the news that the chef is new, has no idea how to make the requested item, and will try to "improvise." Five/seventy minutes later, he says that the chef is attempting a cheese sandwich with ham added, only to come back very soon as my teapot grows into a cauldron. "Sir," he reports from very far away, "I am terribly sorry, but your food has failed."

I'd heard that Pola X was here, but everyone who'd seen it at Cannes had dire things to report: "massively uneven"; "the casting's all wrong, but the fucking's great." The Dutch critic Harry something-or-other, lobbied to get it here and murmured some words about how it was about "a man who falls in love with a ghost," words that would later conclusively prove him a cretin. Pola X, as it beamed out into an incredibly hostile crowd (some of whom ran for the exits), seemed like a riot. Soon Leos Carax threw his camera over an industrial cliff into a ring of mad zombie musicians and the two incestuously entwined leads were immersed in a river of blood. It was too much, and as I found on subsequent viewings, entirely necessary. Unrelenting and inscrutable and utterly faithful to its doomed source, Melville's Pierre, it consumed me and probably changed the lives of anyone who stayed. Carax, moldering at a press conference later behind a cloud of cigarette smoke, called it his best film.

1. Reggie Gibson and Marcus Shelby trio at Second Sundays

2. The Need and Blonde Redhead at the Great American

3. superhuge.net/moodmusic

4. Queer as Folk, Showtime

5. The White Stripes at Bottom of the Hill Thurs/7



Suck and f\$#&: Michael White (left, as Buck, with Chris Weitz, as Chuck) starred in Chuck & Buck, the D.V. shocker that warmed Sundance

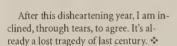


Boy of steel: David Gordon Green's southern indie George Washington (with Curtis Cotton III as Buddy) showed its mettle at festivals in 2000. Paragraph 175, by Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman.



Survivor: Heinz Dormer remembers, in Holocaust documentary





#### Edward's top 10

- 1. Pola X, Leos Carax
- 2. Fa Talai Jone, Wisit Sasanatieng
- 3. Beau travail, Claire Denis
- 4. Gohatto (Taboo), Nagisa Oshima
- 5. Nest of Tens, Miranda July
- 6. Secrets of the Shadow World,
- George Kuchar 7. Mysterious Object at Noon,
- Apichatpong "Joe" Weerasethakul
- 8. Ghost Dog: Way of the Samurai, Jim Jarmusch
- 9. Ballad of Ramblin' Jack, Aiyana Elliott 10. House of Mirth, Terence Davies

## MARCH

#### Freddy's undead. By Cheryl Eddy

or reasons that are better left unexplained, throughout the month of March I was gripped by a sudden fascination with A Nightmare on Elm Street - an obsession abetted by my acquisitions of the Nightmare DVD box set (with bonus disc containing the Fat Boys' video for "Are You Ready for Freddy"), a "Freddy sings" record, and a talking Freddy doll ("Pleasant dreams!"). Next, I went to Reno and won two grand on the slots shortly after catching a bit of Nightmare 5 on the hotel television. Then I learned that the Cinequest festival was planning a tribute to Wes Craven - the guy who invented Freddy. Clearly, a Craven-Eddy summit was predestined, and the



Wonder Bra-kovich: Erin Brockovich (Julia Roberts) roars into March like a lion.

prospect of meeting the man behind Nightmare, The Hills Have Eyes, Last House on the Left, and Shocker was worth risking the trip to San Jose in my car, which kind of looks like the vehicle Erin Brockovich drives before the boss buys her an SUV. Of course, I'm a professional journalist, so I don't get starstruck or ask for autographs ... except when I see Wes Craven getting into a hotel elevator and spend 20 minutes stalking - er, waiting for him to reappear. Later, as I clutched my signed Nightmare DVD, I could only hope that Craven wouldn't happen to pick up a Bay Guardian and read my rather unflattering review of Scream 3. In retrospect, when your choices include Madonna having a baby with Rupert Everett and Brian De Palma's chuckleheaded take on Mars exploration, the subpar horror movie three-quel was actually one of March's least offensive options.

It's not really March's fault - of all the months, it's stuck in the worst cinematic wasteland, sandwiched between holiday schlockbusters and/or Oscargrubbing late-year releases and the "event movies" of summer. So, in March 2000, we got the likes of The Next Best Thing, Drowning Mona, The Road to El Dorado, Mission to Mars, The Whole Nine Yards, and Reindeer Games. Movie theaters were advisably avoidable until Steven Soderbergh strapped a Wonderbra on Julia Roberts and made amends with Erin Brockovich. Roberts's toughcookie performance remains one of 2000's strongest turns, but March's best scene had to be the part in High Fidelity when John Cusack daydreams about kicking the shit out of Tim Robbins. For 2001, I can only hope for a nationwide Friday the 13th craze, and success enough for Jason X (due April 2001) so that maybe, just maybe, Craven'll bring Freddy out of retirement.

#### Cheryl's top 10

- 1. Nowhere to Hide, Myung-se Lee
- 2. Dancer in the Dark, Lars von Trier 3. My Best Fiend, Werner Herzog
- 4. American Pimp, Albert and Allen
- 5. The Eyes of Tammy Faye, Fenton Bailey and Randy Barbato
- 6. The Virgin Suicides, Sofia Coppola 7. Pola X, Leos Carax
- 8. Erin Brockovich, Steven Soderbergh 9. Charlie's Angels, McG
- 10. Hollow Man, Paul Verhoeven

#### Coming soon. By Chuck Stephens

hough you're sure to hear more about it next year - once Cannes has come and gone, and the New York Times has finished misspelling all of the pertinent names - the fact of the matter is this: 2000 was the year Thai filmmaking was reborn.

Long considered one of the strangest of world cinemas, Thai filmmaking has endured every sort of weird rupture imaginable: switching all feature film production from 35mm to 16mm in the late 1950s, switching back to 35mm in the early '70s, shooting everything on color reversal stock so that no negatives exist, and circulating the one or two prints of most features that do exist from cinemas to circuses to temple courtyards, until they're as scratched and fractured as anything Guy Maddin could imagine. Fortunately, Thai cinema now has a Guy Maddin of its own: Wisit Sasanatieng, the director of Fa Talai Jone (rough translation: heaven strikes the thieves), a freakishly candy-colorized, and occasionally intentionally mutilated, reinvention of Thai melodramas and westerns" from the 1950s

Fa Talai Jone - which features a cowboy hunk with a crescent moon-shaped scar on his forehead, ample gunfighting, and enough soap to swamp an opera flopped in Bangkok, where young audiences mistook it for a nostalgia snooze, though it was actually as zippy as any of the Coen brothers' loony toons. Never mind: the film took the Dragons and Tigers New Director prize in Vancouver and is now headed for Cannes. In the meantime, Apichatpong "Joe' Weerasethakul's infinitely digressive documentary Mysterious Object at Noon — at once a story, a study of storytelling, and an affirmation that the stranger a story gets, the more it resembles day-today life - marks a new blossoming of Thai experimental filmmaking. It helps, of course, that Khun Joe Weerasethakul runs the Bangkok Experimental Film Festival, the Bangkok Short Film Festival, and something called Kick the Machine: an organization that's a screening

facility, training ground, and fraternity of young, inventive film- and videomakers soured on the still maddeningly profit-driven Thai movie mainstream. The future of Thai film starts here.

Was it coincidence that I happened to be working on a film of my own in Bangkok last year, when all of these seedlings were just beginning to sprout — or fate? This being the Year of the Dragon and all, it's an auspicious time to begin production on new projects, hence the pregnancy boom that has swept much of Southeast Asia in 2000. So, while that first production of mine still isn't finished, my producer and I started on a second one anyway - our start date was back in April - and it's just about complete: our daughter is scheduled to arrive in a Bangkok surgical theater just in time for the new year.

Guess what we've been calling her. "Coming Soon."

Her film schooling, as you might imagine, is already well under way. My producer, my wife, is a videoholic and



Hungry for filth: Filled with wraiths (like this pii kra-sue) of every description, Bangkok's films, and future filmmakers, come to life.

keeps the intrauterine channel running round the clock. Fortunately, no art films or American indies are included in the programming, just a steady stream of action, animation, and "sexy thrillers" from Hong Kong, Disney, and every straight-to-video substudio no one's ever heard of. Gunfire, grunting, and exploding metal have become the sounds of the baby's nascence; stick a horror flick in the VCR, and she immediately stops her squirming and calmly cuddles in a sonic blanket of shock cuts and severed limbs. Don't worry, she'll be fine, and the finer arts can wait. Until she's old enough to take a seat in one of Khun Joe's workshops, exposing her to the auditory extremes of pop cinema is simply the best way we've found to keep her from constantly kicking the machine. \*

#### Chuck's top 7

- 1. Gohatto (Taboo), Nagisa Oshima
- 2. Fa Talai Jone, Wisit Sasanatieng
- 3. Face, Junji Sakamoto, Japan
- 4. Mysterious Object at Noon, Apichatpong Weerasethakul
- 5. Pola X, Leos Carax
- 6. Almost Forgotten, Makoto Shinozaki
- 7. Ghost Dog: Way of the Samurai, Jim Jarmusch

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Critics' notebooks Ouoted Where we saw them page 63

#### Ouoted

Replaying 2000 with filmmakers, programmers, exhibitors, and critics.

This year has been all about character for me. How personas evolve, how characters are performed, how we cast the spell of identity onto a subject. The moment that most moved me was from a film that, despite its hipsterness, delivered stunning performances. In Alison Maclean's Jesus' Son, the foxy Samantha Morton makes the best screen entrance of the year, wearing a wraparound '70s sweater and grungy hip-huggers, dancing across the floor of a slacker-quy-infested party house in a simultaneous movement of seduction and self-reflexive irony, purposely embarrassing, increasingly uncontrolled. Performing to be seen while making fun of the sight and its reception.

Elisabeth Subrin director Shulie, Swallow, and The Fancy

After the archetypal climactic gun battle in Johnny To's A Hero Never Dies that leaves the main characters pretty well perforated, you take a breath as the mayhem finally ceases - and then you realize, you're less than halfway into the movie. That means that there's still at least another hour left to top the insane destruction that just went before. Only Hong Kong's Milkway Image Productions could come up with a fitting conclusion to such an audacious event - at once an apt homage and a profound goof on heroic bloodshed conventions.

Valerie Soe experimental videomaker

The two exemplary shows of 2000 that rocked my world and justified my love - make that masochism - of the margins: in September, Animal Charm's wild-ass, wigged-out, red-hot live video remix of bad '80s TV; in November, the deliriously delicious (improvised?) duet between accordionist Mark Growden and the eye-popping emulsion experiments of Thad Povey's (found) Scratch Films. New wine in old bottles!

Craig Baldwin programmer Other Cinema

#### My top five movie moments of 2000

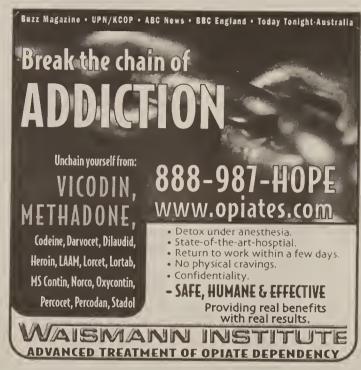
- 1. June: Opening night of Frameline fest. Who would imagine a parking lot could be so glamorous?
- 2. August: Get up at 5 a.m. to shoot old buildings for my experimental feature, Dive. Accidentally capture sunrise from my D.P.'s Van Ness balcony.
- 3. October: Write brilliant letter to the editor when SF Weekly doesn't review Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman's Paragraph 175. They don't print it. I vow to get even.
- 4. November: Have a hot dog for Thanksgiving dinner and go see Charlie's Angels at the Metreon with a pack of scruffy dyke pals.
- 5. December: Dinner bums in the oven while I'm on the phone with Sundance programmer Shari Frilot, who's calling to say that my one-minute short

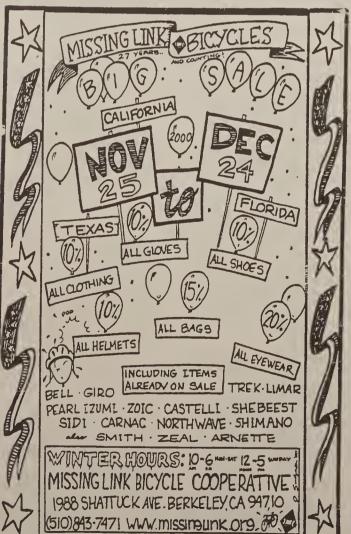
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From page 55

#### Death race 2000. By Dennis Harvey

or a man you'd expect to contrive grand entrances and departures like some minor, vainglorious invitee at a Proustian salon - Paul Bartel timed his permanent exit quite poorly. Not only did his May 13 passing from liver cancer arrive at an unfair age (61), it also came too late for his best work to be well remembered, and too early for the inevitable cult revivals.

At present Bartel is just another familiar face you probably can't put a name to. The portly, bearded latter-day version of 1930s screwball staples like Franklin Pangborn and Edward Everett Horton, he surfaced as various cravat-wearing comic windbags and prudes in almost 100 films. Some you've seen (Rock 'n' Roll High School, The Living End, Tales of the City, even the Ethan Hawke Hamlet), some you never will (Mortuary Academy). Like fellow Roger Corman lifer Dick Miller, he often seemed cast out of pure affection, as a talisman of Hollywood's historic penchant for eccentric party hounds and indiscriminate, B-to-Z-pic careerists.

But Bartel was also a director, writer, and producer, albeit an unemployed one since 1993. That was the year he helmed his last feature, Shelf Life, a fallout-shelter comedy penned by others (ex-S.F. theater folks, in fact), yet snugly fitted to his own macabre prankster's wit. Hardly released, it was a lovely swan song no one recognized as such - probably Bar-

He shouldn't have had to. An erratic talent, Bartel, and his movies, often wrestled with skimpy funding and interfering producers. Still, the ones that emerged more or less unscathed usually made money — while minting black comedy ideas that others would recycle ad infinitum later on. The Brooklyn-born Fulbright scholar first attracted notice with "The Secret Cinema," a 1969 short about a nondescript NYC secretary whose paranoias prove horribly justified, anticipating today's "reality entertainments": the whole world really is laughing at her, via clandestine hidden-camera telecasts.

This attracted exploitation king Corman, whose gift for finding genuine talents (and buying them dirt cheap) launched many an A-list director. After working on fellow Cormanite Martin



The living end: Paul Bartel, here in full bloom, died before his time this past May.

Scorsese's Boxcar Bertha, Bartel got to make Private Parts, a 1972 L.A.underbelly Guignol so perverse (albeit only by suggestion) that shamefaced MGM showed it under a studio pseudonym. At least Corman was pleased. He let Bartel write and direct (salary: \$5,500!) 1975's Death Race 2000, the drive-in smash wherein post-Kung Fu David Carradine, pre-Rocky Sly Stallone, and ex-Warhol superstar Mary Woronov gunned their futuristic hotwheels cross-country, earning extra points for every pedestrian-road kill.

Despite this low-cost, high-profit success, Bartel was forced to borrow parental cash for his next feature, starring himself and fag hag goddessa Woronov. In 1982's hilarious Eating Raoul, they were the Blands, cashstrapped snobs who clean up --- fiscally and puritanically — by luring, robbing, then bludgeoning to death the Hollywood swingers they abhor. A prototypical indie cinema sleeper, Raoul was the little movie that could.

Inexplicably, Bartel couldn't - get a sequel funded, that is. It proved his Holy Grail, chased but never grasped while hired-hand jobs like Lust in the Dust (a poor imitation of skinny creative twin John Waters) and The Longshot (last gasp for le cinéma de Tim Conway) eroded his directorial credibility. He did realize one more major project, 1989's sorta-stellar (Jacqueline Bisset, Ed Begley Jr., Ray Sharkey, Woronov), so-so upmarket satire Scenes from the Class Struggle in Beverly Hills. Why this got bankrolled instead of the eternally ready-to-go Bland Ambition is a mystery worth crying over.

I met Bartel (and the delightful Woronov) on their Scenes promo tour. Figuring he'd "arrived" at last, he was a tad pompous, silly - just like one of his film roles. Later it became hard to separate times I'd fleetingly glimpse him "in character" on-screen and off. He seemed one of those people who'd accept any invitation, anywhere, then bitch sotto voce about the no-host bar. (At the 1998 San Jose Film Fest he was the only celebrity juror who seemed to be having a good time - or who felt free to walk out on movies he was supposed to be judging.)

Bartel "came out" late, quietly, eliciting a "Well, duh" from the few who noticed. Too bad, since gay film fests might otherwise have lined up to hand him Lifetime Achievement trophies while he still had lifetime left. Still, better late than never. A Paul Bartel retrospective would be like an absinthe-tasting party: very retro, nasty-flavored, slightly disreputable, but sure to leave your inhibitions loosened and equilibrium undone.

#### Dennis's festival/rep top 10

- 1. Herr Zwilling and Frau Zuckerman, Volker Koepp
- 2. Nuyorican Dream, Laurie Collyer 3. The Ballad of Ramblin' Jack, Aiyana
- Elliott
- 4. "Tom Verlaine: Music for Film"
- 5. "Ritual Obsessions: Three Nights of Luther Price'
- 6. The Phoenix Tapes, Christoph Giradet and Matthias Müller
- 7. Moloch, Aleksandr Sokurov

- 8. The Sea, a.k.a. El Mar, Agustín Villaronga
- 9. Krapp's Last Tape, Atom Egoyan 10. Stroke, Rob Nilsson,

#### Rave realism. By Amanda Nowinski

he script was dull, the plot was trite, and the acting was awkward - but hey, cried the clubbers and the ravers, the music was cool, and most important, it just seemed so damn real. This would be Greg Harrison's Groove, which was lauded as the first movie to deal exclusively with one night of raving. Big deal.

About 30 minutes into the film, I began to twitch and shift impatiently in my seat, mainly because few experiences in life are more tedious than being sober and having to listen to someone else's ecstasy-induced blabber. And this was Groove's selling point: that E can be great, raving is deep, and if you open your heart to a hottie when you're high, the experience can change the course of your life. In Groove's case, the E-as-life-savior point is underscored when the protagonist drives the hottie home, slips the bridge toll collector a twenty, and then takes off, leaving the change for the next driver. That's some deep shit, I guess.

But while Groove's dance floor scenes and agonizing E chatter seemed authentic at the time, the realness factor wasn't enough to make it a legitimately good film, nor was it enough to make anyone but ravers and Sony Classics, which bought the film for \$1.5 million, give a rat's ass about it. The public's ambivalence might have been because the film is based on unlimited, uncritical amounts of idealism (i.e., raving is the holy side of the disco life). That idealism might have been hard for the cynic or the nonraver to stomach, because it wasn't tempered with irony - and there was no discernible sense of humor in Groove at all, except when the script accidentally turned absurdly cliché.

Groove's British counterpart, Justin Kerrigan's Human Traffic, also dealt with a night of partying but wisely balanced it with extraordinary amounts of sarcasm and wit. The director seemed to have realized that yes, raving is excellent, but it's also silly at times, especially when your head is completely wrecked from 24 hours of drugs. Which is probably what impelled a Salon rock critic to write, "People tend to sound stupid when they intellectualize dance music" in his review of Jon Reiss's rave lifestyle documentary, Better Living Through Circuitry. The documentary is a sincere, fast-paced video about the ideological nuts and bolts of dance culture, and it's far superior to Groove. But still, the film's hyper ravepositive point of view may seem overblown and insincere to outsiders.



E-trade: Lola Glaudini starred as Leyla Heydel in Greg Harrison's Groove, which couldn't quite hit one.

proving perhaps that it's impossible to make a dead-serious film about popping E and jumping up and down on the dance floor.

#### Amanda's 10 all right party pictures

- 1. Party Girl, Shelly Jensen
- 2. Trainspotting, Danny Boyle
- 3. Beat Street, Stan Lathan
- 4. Quadrophenia, Franc Roddam
- 5. Wild Style, Charlie Ahearn
- 6. Better Living Through Circuitry, Ion Reiss
- 7. Human Traffic, Justin Kerrigan
- 8. Breakin', Joel Silberg
- 9. House Party, Reginald Hudlin
- 10. Saturday Night Fever, John Badham

#### Heterosexual panic. By Dennis Harvey

t is still hard to believe that Scary Movie, released nationwide July 7, got an R (as opposed to NC-17) rating, made north of \$250 million, or got made (with generally inspired filth intact) at all.

A horror-movie satire, sure, no problem. But one featuring a geyserexplosive, girl-blasted-ceilingward teen come shot? And that was just the heterosexual highlight. 'Mo-wise, it had coscenarist Marlon Wayans as Shorty, the all-American jock whose sexuality was a Love Whose Name Only He Dared Not Speak. The joke was how obvious it appeared to everyone else. Irrefutable evidence that Jack Valenti is asleep at the wheel: Shorty visits public loo, spies glory hole, cops a feel, experiences enormous FX-dick penetration in one ear and out the other, lives to tell the tale. R rating, folks. Something you and the kids can enjoy together.

Scary Movie got dissed as homophobic by a humorless few (including



Way out: Jon Abrahams, Shawn Wayans, and Marlon Wayans get high and happy in Keenen Ivory Wayans's homo-friendly Scary Movie

the usual "Didn't actually see it, but ..." squad), which only underlines the increasing difficulty in separating nasty from faux nasty on our current comedy landscape. At present, bad taste means never, ever having to say you're sorry. The Farrellys, Christopher Guest (Best in Show), the South Park guys (whose NAMBLA episode was this year's most jaw-droppingly tasteless exercise in clear thinking), certain Saturday Night Live writers, and a few others are satirists who practice covert affirmative action by overtly ridiculing everyone.

So what's new (or good) about that? Just that without anybody hardly noticing, the pop culture discourse ran off with ye olde fag jokes and turned them inside out. Suddenly the (mostly) straight ex-campus cutups are trading not in homophobic humor but homophilic humor: Defusing "homosexual panic" nationwide by making it look like the lamest thing ever. I like this. I like this very much.

Hence we had a year in which the nerviest, even most propagandistically positive "gay images" were aimed at 13year-old boys - precisely the demographic that will forever need such guidance most. Of course, unsophisticated audiences can miss sophisticated points. They don't want to miss out; next time, they'll try harder.

Scary Movie laughed at Shorty not for being gay, but for being in denial. Another great teen comedy, Road Trip, peaked when the most hunkadelic dormie lost his rectal cherry to a (female) nurse's rubber glove - an unprecedented screen instance of gratefully fucked dudedom. TV commercials hawking everything from mints to Miatas winked "Yeah ... whatever" at polysexuality. Perhaps the definitive confusethat-bias-away moment occurred on Comedy Central's John Hughes-goes-Dada series Strangers with Candy, when a turbojock waved off heroine Jerri Blank's overtures by claiming, "Having a girlfriend is, like, so gay."

Crass mass comedy sure did more for us in 2000 than the tired sitcoms and dramedies of not-so-queer indie cinema (Just One Time, But I'ns a Cheerleader, the heinous Broken Hearts Club), mybest-friend-is-gay Julia Roberts rejects (The Next Best Thing), or even various artful foreign depictions of sexualoutcast misery, cross-dressing, and suicide (check any Lumiere calendar).

And OK, maybe the above prank subversions won't link hands across the Kinsey scale overnight. But hey, they're helping. Homophiles are laughing. Long may the world laugh with them.

#### Dennis's top 10

- 1. Paragraph 175, Robert Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman
- 2. Requiem for a Dream, Darren Aronofsky
- 3. Urbania, John Shear
- 4. The Virgin Suicides, Sofia Coppola
- 5. Trade Off!, Shaya Mercer
- 6. Croupier, Mike Hodges
- 7. Timecode, Mike Figgis
- 8. You Can Count on Me, Ken Lonergan
- 9. Road Trip, Todd Phillips
- 10. Charlie's Angels, McG

### AUGUST

#### In the mood. By Robin Lapid

he new millennium in film had a shaky start this year with its vision of the love story. On the one hand, I didn't see — but, I'm pretty sure I hated it anyway - Autumn in New York, where the repentant lothario (Richard Gere) meets the dying young Continued on page 58

#### Quoted

From page 55

"Meep Meep!" just got into the Sundance Online Film Festival.

Jenni Olson producer PlanetOut's PopcomQ

It took 11 months and one week of 2000 to go by before I saw a film that I loved. You Can Count on Me was a reminder of why we fight for independent cinema to see the light of day. Kenneth Lonergan's directorial debut was honest and refreshingly adult. With Hollywood's fiscal need for mass appeal, a nonevent film like this would hardly emerge from its loins.

Wendy Braitman executive director International Film Financing Conference IFFCON is a financing event for independent film. IFFCON 2001 will be held Jan. 12-14 in San Francisco.

Rob Taylor's top 10: Requiem for a Dream; Sunshine; Croupier; Almost Famous; The Color of Paradise; 81/2 Women; The Virgin Suicides; East Is East; Bring It On; Charlie's Angels.

Rob Taylor is a Bay Guardian film writer.

My best moments in the year 2000 have been seeing the 10 hours (562 minutes) of Kieslowski's 1988 [series] The Decalogue. Second best moment was the French film Voyages, which I saw at the San Francisco International Film Festival and the S.F. Jewish Film Festival.

Jay Rosenblatt experimental-documentary filmmaker King of the Jews

Probably the oddest moment in film this year was seeing our clip of a stoned hippie teenager in Ron Mann's feature documentary Grass, narrated by actor and hemp advocate Woody Harrelson. In a comic scene illustrating the effects of drugs, a stoned teen (from the '60s drug scare film Pill Poppers) strolls onto a bowling lane in a stupor, hurling a classic gutter ball.

Stephen Parr director Oddball Film+Video

Oddball Film+Video provides offbeat and unusual stock footage for feature films, music videos, industrials, and other projects.

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#### The Art of Giving



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#### August

From page 57

woman of his dreams (Winona Ryder, whose career looks more terminal than her apple-cheeked character). By August in San Francisco, I was still waiting for summer to come and certainly not waiting for any insipid Hollywood love stories about perfect East Coast falls being undercut by hearts that suddenly gasp and choke on their own undying love. Thus, seeing previews of Winona Ryder ice-skating at Rockefeller Center as Richard Gere looked on adoringly only made me want to steal her mittens so I could slap them both into submission.

On the other hand, little did I know that a couple of months later my patience would be rewarded when I saw Wong Kar-wai's In the Mood for Love, with Maggie Cheung as Mrs. Chan and Tony Leung as Mr. Chow, a couple who fall in love yet never actually become a couple, even though their respective spouses (whom we never see) are having an affair with each other. In the Mood for Love is a film so visually enveloped in the sybaritic air of unrequited love, locating all the pretty points of despair and the imaginary hopes in hopelessness, that it somehow offers a better understanding of why anyone pursues something that would hurt so much.

Unlike the emotionally reticent Merchant Ivory flicks, with their drained reserve and austere decorum, Wong's Hong Kong pictorial circa 1962 explodés into warm colors and a cool, breathy style, a commentary on everything that lies on the surface and everything else that lies just beneath it, as if the universal menagerie of unrequited emotions seeped through the canvas in the form of daytime apparitions. There are no suggestively arranged clumps of pretty autumn leaves, but there are the golds, reds, and browns of a dress, the curtains, a hotel room, and even the Nat King Cole songs that float through the air. In the Mood for Love won't officially come out until next year, but it's a welcome sign of things to come. I feared that moviedom's romantic ideal might end in a heap of autumnal melancholy where love mirrors some moment in your high school production of Romeo and Juliet when Winona -with winsome weariness and perfectly arranged hair - kisses the poison on the lips of her 40-year-old drama teacher just before she plunges the plastic prop knife into the side of her dress.

In the Mood for Love proposes love as a kind of haphazard purging of all that binds, an embracing of vulnerabilities.



Chow, down: Tony Leung (as Mr. Chow) gets In the Mood for Love.

But when it doesn't quite reach - kind of grabbing at the air as the eyes turn away, not expecting to find anything and then even retracting at the first touch of anything - then it is the most immediate, the most insistent, the most perfect it will ever be. That kind of phantom love translates better in film than your average terminal-illness romance. Wong Kar-wai said his story isn't quite like being in love, but "it's almost like" it; and this somehow seems even better.

#### Robin's top 10

- 1. Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon, Ang Lee
- 2. In the Mood for Love, Wong Kar-wai
- 3. Judy Berlin, Eric Mendelsohn
- 4. Dancer in the Dark, Lars von Trier
- 5. Girlfight, Karyn Kusama
- 6. The Yards, James Gray
- 7. The Filth and the Fury, Julien Temple
- 8. Requiem for a Dream, Darren Aronofsky
- 9. Hamlet, Michael Almereyda
- 10. Chuck & Buck, Miguel Arteta

## SEPTEMBER

#### Movie weather. By Patrick Macias

окуо — Shinjuku is the very heart of downtown Tokyo: an immense train station, a minicity all its own, overstimulated as a beehive and hot as a urinary tract infection. September's fluctuating typhoonlike conditions keep it perpetually moist in two flavors: rain and perspiration.

And it's perfect moviegoing weather. Get off the street, catch your breath, and enjoy air-conditioning without the inch-thick cigarette smoke of the video arcades and pachinko parlors.

Statistics say that the average Japanese person only makes it to the pictures about once a year and then to something on the level of Titanic or Armageddon. But a good-size crowd has turned up at a Toho Studios-owned and -operated theater for a Saturday matinee of Setsuro Wakamatsu's Whiteout, currently the number-one movie at the Japanese box office.

Sadly, it's a lifeless Die Hard clone set in the snow and not much more remarkable than that. At around U.S. \$18 for adult admission, the previews are a better entertainment value. There's a trailer for Gojoe, a sharplooking period fantasy by Sogo Ishii (Angel Dust). It's followed by a headwhirling spot for Miike Takashi's Hyoryu gai (International title: The City of Lost Souls), a twisted multiculti underworld story featuring startling CGI cockfighting.

Despite the odd attempt to trump Hollywood, the old genres continue to endure. A teaser poster is already up in the lobby for Godzilla vs.



Showakan time: Old men and vestervear's Japanese stars meet inside the Shiniuku Showakan movie theater in downtown Tokyo.

Megaguirus, due this X-mas.

About a mile from Shinjuku's theater and sex-industry district is the Showakan, a grungy urban grind

Continued on page 60

#### **Ouoted**

From page 57

Watching a packed screening of Gladiator in Amsterdam and having the film shut off in the middle, lights up, and icecream girls come out, and everyone goes and smokes and drinks and then on with the show! Now that's livin'!

Martha Colbum Baltimore (soon to be Dutch) animator, artist, and musician

I'm totally bored of the ego-driven, celebrity-based movie industry, and that includes much of what passes for "indie" cinema these days. My favorite things happening in film last year were the local shows at micro theaters like the New Nothing Cinema, or Other Cinema (ATA Gallery), or Sprocket Ensemble at Minna Street Gallery. Intimate . movie nights where a packed house means 60 people crammed in a small room, attentively soaking up short experimental or animated films, or challenging documentaries.

Ted White filmmaker

David Fear's top 10: Beau Travail; State and Main; Trans; Judy Berlin; The Wind Will Carry Us: The Way of The Gun: Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon; The Virgin Suicides; High Fidelity; O Brother, Where Art Thou?.

David Fear is a Bay Guardian film writer.

For me, the most memorable moment in film in the year 2000 was Samantha Morton dancing in Jesus' Son.

Tom E. Brown Bugsby Pictures

The Soong Sisters was a major hit at 4 Star's Fourth Annual Film Festival this past August, and its encore performance had record breaking box-office for four continous weeks. Definitely an audience favorite for the year 2000!

> Frank Lee. owner. 4 Star Theater

Thank god for restorations of classic movies - without the exquisite new print of Rear Window and the rediscovery of Jules Dassin's seminal Ri-FiFi, 2000 would have been no fun at all.

> Anita Monga programmer Castro Theatre

Continued on page 60

#### **BAY GUARDIAN COMMUNITY FUND 2001**

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ver the next several weeks, we ask you to help support these five community organizations. The Bay Guardian Community Fund is a component fund of The San Francisco Foundation, the Community Trust for the Bay Area, and all contributions are tax deductible. Please, put your money where your heart is, and give what you can. Thank you.

Put your money where your heart is and give what you can. Thank you.

#### Five Ways You Can Make a Heartfelt Commitment

Horizons Unlimited is just one of the five local community organizations that will benefit from the 2000-2001 fundraising campaign. Launched in 1991 as our 25th Anniversary gift to the Bay Area, this annual Fund has assisted many local nonprofit groups through cash donations and public awareness campaigns. Other beneficiaries are:

#### AIDS PROJECT EAST BAY

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AIDS Project East Bay provides a full range of services and outreach at no cost to clients, from medical and nursing case management to financial and housing assistance. APEB also conducts aggressive education and prevention programs to fight the spread of HIV/AIDS, especially among the homeless and other highrisk populations.

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[ ] Ninth Street Media Arts Consortium community service on film

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BAY GUARDIAN COMMUNITY FUND 2001





#### September

From page 58

house from the St. Francis and Strand school. Here old men rummage noisily through plastic bags, sleep soundly, or stare up at a screen filled with yesterday's stars: Junko Fuji, Shintaro Katsu, Koji Tsuruta. A seemingly endless supply of gangster and samurai films plays in triple bills.

Mere blocks away, south Shinjuku has undergone mass redevelopment. The gang-owned loan companies have been swept away to make room for a Metreon-like shopping-entertainment sprawl called Takashimaya Times Square. From here you can gaze out over the train tracks and see the latest additions to the area that herald an entirely new sort of coming attractions: a motel-style Yahoo! billboard and a crowded Starbucks café.

#### Patrick's top 10

- 1. Hollow Man, Paul Verhoeven
- 2. "Kinji Fukasaku: Sympathy for the Underdog'
- 3. Bernie Mac segment from The Original Kings of Comedy, Spike Lee
- 4. Jiang Hu: The Triad Zone, Dante Lam
- 5. Uzumaki, Higuchinsky
- 6. Requiem for a Dream, Darren Aronofsky
- 7. The Filth and the Fury, Julien Temple
- 8. Opening credits of Shadow of the Vampire, E. Elias Merhige
- 9. X, Rintaro
- 10. Charlie's Angels, McG

## OCTOBER

#### Torture the women. By Michelle Goldberg

ctober was a cruel month at the movies. Not because of any lack of brilliance in theaters, but because three separate films probed the limits of cinematic sadism, pushing horror and unredemptive misery to near obscene extremes.

On the surface, those three movies have little in common. There was Lars von Trier's Dancer in the Dark, in which shaky social realism collided with musicals and hysterical melodrama, yielding keening tragedy. The same month brought Darren Aronofsky's almost intolerably intense film about drug addiction, Requiem for a Dream, based on the book by Hubert Selby Jr. Aronofsky's follow-up to his



No pain, no gain? David Morse and Björk both endure some agony in Lars von Trier's Dancer in the Dark.

1998 Pi, it used frenetic, hypnotic music-video editing and dazzling tricks of time, style, and perspective to keep the audience's eyes glued to a merciless barrage of mental disintegration, purulence, and one of the most wrenching scenes of sexual degradation in the history of feature film. Watching its relentless extended člimax, one felt like Alex DeLarge in A Clockwork Orange, stuck to a seat and forcibly bug-eyed before a parade of mind-numbing grotesquerie. Finally, there was the rerelease of William Friedkin's 1973 The Exorcist, with its vomit and urine and crucifix masturbation-rape.

All three directors have been accused of misogyny and sadism. Indeed, all took Alfred Hitchcock's old credo "Torture the women!" to new extremes. The question, then, becomes whether there's something inherently misogynist about a movie in which female characters are abused and demeaned, and whether that misogyny has anything to do with a film's quality. Hitchcock, after all, clearly had his women-hating streak, but it didn't detract from his genius.

In Salon, Stephanie Zacharek described von Trier's films as "meat grinders he feeds his characters through." But the accusation is unfair: while the lead women in both Dancer and his 1996 Breaking the Waves certainly suffer, his attitude towards them is one of awed sympathy, not Sadean brutality. One dominant theme in each film is that of an angelic woman whose purity is snuffed out by a monstrous world — a misanthropic view, perhaps, but not a misogynist one.

The meat grinder analogy seems far better suited to Requien and The Exorcist, each of which flays its females in ways that have almost nothing to do with their individual characters. In Dancer, Selma's tribulations stem in part from terrible accidents and in part from her own naïveté and desperate loyalty to her son - the role of her personality in her downfall is what makes it tragedy. The Exorcist, though, is so chilling in part because the characters do nothing to invite their tribulations and can do nothing to avoid them, while in Requiem the characters are basically defined by their destructive addictions. In each, we watch as innocents — blank slates, really — are senselessly stripped of every shred of dignity and humiliated by their female physicality. On one level, the point of each movie is the spectacle of florid dehumanization.

Does that make them misogynist? Partly, yes. And when we watch them, sitting in the dark and munching popcorn, are we complicit? Both Friedkin and Aronofsky force their audience to take visual pleasure in their characters' victimization. Yet all three movies are, to differing degrees, great works. The tricky thing about cinema is that there's satisfaction in watching no matter how disgusting the image.

#### Michelle's top 10

1. Rififi rerelease, Jules Dassin 2. Dancer in the Dark, Lars von Trier

- 3. Human Traffic, Justin Kerrigan
- 4. Live Nude Girls Unite!, Vicky Funari and Julia Query
- 5. Solas, Benito Zambrano
- 6. Praise, John Curran
- 7. Venus Beauty Institute, Tonie Marshall
- 8. You Can Count on Me, Ken Lonergan
- 9. The Virgin Suicides, Sofia Coppola
- 10. The Yards, James Gray

### NOVEMBER

The movie, the meal. By B. Ruby Rich

he month of November belonged, hands down and forks up, to Gurinder Chadha and What's Cooking?, her Thanksgiving heartwarmer. Hey, a movie about Thanksgiving! Open it in November! This is the kind of no-brainer that marketing departments can handle.

Or can they? The film's recognizable actors and easygoing plot are pitched to the mainstream, yet it's packed with the multiculturalism of the '80s U.K. film culture where Chadha got her start. In increasingly segregated America, movies aren't supposed to complicate their niche markets by mixing Vietnamese,

Continued on page 63

#### Quoted

From page 58

Believe it or not, the one image that comes back and back to me at the end of the year 2000 is this: over a Melachrino Strings-version of that Kinks song about being "tired of waiting," a hand places a surgical bandage around a hideous tumor-looking thing in Luther Price's I'll Cry Tomorrow. The shot loops about a million times, the music gets screwier and screwier, the entire flow of the evening (and the weekend and our lives) becomes lodged in a weird backwater eddy whirlpool vortex thing where we just AREN'T GOING FORWARD ANY-MORE!!! We are now doomed to live forever in a perverse hermetic land of flower-masked surgical nurses and rainbow-eyed fruit flies with a family where even the cat has cancer. This moment was smack dab in the middle of "Ritual Obsessions: Three Nights of Luther Price" (at the San Francisco Cinematheque, May 2000), in which the Boston Super-8 filmmaker brought us into his own harrowing world where love, death, disease, and all varieties of familial dysfunction blur into a beautifully grotesque soup of Super-8 sound and celluloid. Probably the most courageously personal filmmaker on the planet, Luther's films were the most inspiring things on a screen this year.

Steve Polta filmmaker, office manager San Francisco Cinematheque

Steve Polta's latest work, "Gratuity," premieres at ATA's Other Cinema Sat/16. .



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#### **November**

From page 60

African Americans, Chicanos, and Jews into a single movie. Like, who wants to see that? (Two people, at the show my girlfriend Mary attended. So get there quick.)

Chadha, though, is diasporic to the core. She widened her India-Kenya-London axis by marrying Paul Mayeda Berges, himself a Japanese-Basque Angeleno. Chadha makes films that are happily inclusive, and, American by marriage now, she loves Thanksgiving.

Now, it's my favorite holiday, too, despite the genocidal subtext. At least it avoids the God-fearing, rocketshooting trappings of every other U.S. holiday, in favor of extended and invented families, united by food.



Plate-warmer: Alfre Woodard serves up '80s U.K.-style multiculturalism in Gurinder Chadha's What's Cooking.

This year's meal was shadowed by the film's example. Should I race to 24th Street and buy masa for tamales? Add fish sauce to the stuffing? I settled on cranberry chutney. Then there was the guest list. My old friend Holly, battling cancer, flew in from Chicago with brussels sprouts from her raised-bed, wheelchair-weeded garden. The Angeleno niche was filled by newly relocated Claire, bearing a sublime sweet-potato pie. When momentary San Franciscan Tilda Swinton offered to drop by with partner John Byrne and their fabulous force of nature, the twins, our U.K. quota was filled.

Where we saw them

ere's where we found our top-10 films that didn't have regular theatrical

bookings in San Francisco: *Almost Forgotten* (Japan), Vancouver International Film Festival; *Dead or Alive* (Japan), Fantasia Film Festival, Montre-

al; Face (Japan), Pusan International Film Festival; Fa Talai Jone (Thailand),

Vancouver International Film Festival; George Washington (USA), Toronto;

Gohatto (Japan), New York; Herr Zwilling and Frau Zuckerman (Germany),

"Berlin and Beyond"/San Francisco Jewish Film Festival; In the Mood for

"Kinji Fukasaku: Sympathy for the Underdog" (Japan), New PFA Theater;

Love (Hong Kong, China), Toronto; Just, Melvin (USA) Sundance Film Festival:

Krapp's Last Tape (Ireland), Toronto; Moloch (Russia), San Francisco Interna-

tional Film Festival; Mysterious Object at Noon (Thailand), International Film

Festival Rotterdam; No Place to Go (Germany), Cannes Directors Fortnight;

Nowhere to Hide (South Korea), SFIFF; Nuyorican Dream (USA), Sundance;

"Ritual Obsessions: Three Nights of Luther Price," S.F. Cinematheque; Rot

Lesbian and Gay Film Festival; Stroke (USA), Mill Valley Film Festival; The

SFLGFF; "Tom Verlaine: Music for Film," SFIFF; Tomie Replay (Taiwan),

Taipei, basement theater,

Woman (Japan), Fantasia; See the Sea (France), San Francisco International

Phoenix Tapes (U.K.), New PFA Theater, S.F. Cinematheque; The Sea (Spain),

Would there be revelations, like in the film? Fights? Affairs? One emergency risotto later, everything turned out fine: Suzanne and Kristi brought a karaoke machine. After many belted tunes, we had room for dessert. Tilda and John and twins never did make it. When they arrived on the doorstep a few days later, our leftovers were gone. We were all free to sip tea and reminisce. Or, in the case of the adorable twins, Honor and Xavier, to try out a new Play-Doh factory and unleash the next round of holiday decorating in the most, um, unexpected places.

#### Ruby's top 10

- 1. Girlfight, Karyn Kusama
- 2. Emporte-moi (Set me free), Lea Pool
- 3. Nurse Betty, Neil LaBute
- 4. Bamboozled, Spike Lee
- 5. In the Mood for Love, Wong Kar-wai
- 6. Girl on the Bridge, Patrice Leconte 7. La ciudad, David Riker
- 8. Jesus' Son, Alison Maclean
- 9. Die Unberührbare (No place to go),
- 10. Long Night's Journey into Day, Deborah Hoffmann and Frances Reid

Golden (hidden)

ou saw Art of War. Like much of 2000, the year the earth stood still, it played as an Olympian time-delay broadcast. From the opening Tsui Harkian, digitally transmitted PLA-official-gettingsucked-off-under-a-table minutes it is Hong Kong, New Year's Eve, and Y2K is still impending doom - you lost your senses. Was it 1999?

Or - considering the Chuck Norrisian elements to follow, complete with James Hong and Anne Archer

## DECEMBER

dragon. By Alvin Lu

# shot in the head - 1989?

Kicking, the habit: Michelle Yeoh hits high-wire notes in Ang Lee's Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon.

Let's hope another Bush adminis-

In fact, time has not merely stopped

tration at least garners as many good

but seems to be spreading backward.

millennial Golden Dragon. There

It was to be an auspicious year, the

were some who desperately wanted to

believe 2000 would usher in the Chi-

Instead, the Olympics, and John

Prize in Literature to a French guy. All

Chinese cinema, at least, has ar-

rived. On the other hand, Crouching

Tiger, Hidden Dragon isn't really an

inauguration but a backward turn —

deep nostalgia for the pulp novels of

Ang Lee's youth. There were intermit-

wire work and dart catching - it was

exactly how I remember those wuxia

TV serials I saw as a kid, though if I

hold up nearly as well as Yuen Wo

Ping's state-of-the-art choreography.

Cool trick! The rest of Crouching Tiger

To what purpose? Maybe there's

something in those old H.K. (and Tai-

wan) movies yet, where, if watched in

leased. Or maybe they were just cheap,

the right way, preferably on bootleg

videotape, some magic might be re-

flawed, sleazy entertainment with

plots that made no sense.

went back to them now, they wouldn't

tent flashes of real wonder. All that

ls kung fu an official Olympic event?

Woo, went to Australia. The Nobel

movies as the last one.

nese century.

to tepid response.

is embalmed.

Anyway, Michelle Yeoh aside, the only real kung fu that went down this year was Wesley Snipes's, not that you could tell, amid all that addled editing. While in Crouching Tiger they flew from rooftop to rooftop, in Art of War they're constantly jumping off ledges.

To what purpose? Still, there may be something in that MTV juice and pinched, Wen Ho Lee, Clinton-era paranoia. Already, a gullible youth, another unnecessary auteur, is planning his/her meticulous, deadened homage to shit like this.

#### Alvin's top 5

- 1. Hollow Man, Paul Verhoeven
- 2. Tomie Replay, Fujiro Mitsuishi
- 3. Dead or Alive, Takashi Miike 4. Rot Woman, Nobuhiro Yamashita
- 5. Uzumaki, Higuchinsky 💠

## Concert Update sfbg.com

#### this week

For complete colendor of shows this week see music listings.

KFOG'S CONCERT FOR KIDS JOE JACKSON **TTAIH NHOL** 

12/13 Masonic A SOLD OUT

MAIMAR WESTON 12/13 Bottom of the

\*TAJ MAHAL & THE PHANTOM **BLUES BAND** 12/13 The FIllmore SIMON SAYS TYPE O NEGATIVE 12/14 Slim's

LIVE 105'S NOT SO SILENT NIGHT **GREEN DAY** PAPA ROACH A.F.1. DEFTONES

**DISTURBED** 12/15 Rill Cham sold out Cive sugnorium

\*EVERCLEAR **HOOTIE & THE BLOWFISH NELLY FURTADO FASTBALL** 

12/15 The Warfield

\*LOS LOBOS 12/15-16 The Fillmore

CAUSTIC RESIN GAZA STRIPPERS 12/16 Bottom of the

SLAVES ON DOPE SHUVEL CRAZY TOWN 12/17 Slim's

#### coming up

DAN HICKS & THE HOT LICKS

12/21 Great American Music Hall

WILL BERNARD & MOTHERBUG 12/22 Bruno's

ONE MAN ARMY RICHMOND SLUTS THE BODIES YOUTH BRIGADE 12/22 Slim's

\*K-CI & JOJO 12/22 The Warfield

\*RAGGAF CHRISTMAS BASH DON CARLOS

12/23 Casino San Pablo

**MOTHER HIPS** 12/23 Great American

THE BLASTERS VICTOR KRUMMENACHER

Music Hall

12/23 Slim's

12/23 The Fillmore STEVE KIMOCK

BAND 12/27 Great American Music Hall

THE AISLERS SET THE MATES OF STATE

\*YAZAWA

THE FAIRWAYS

12/30 Cofe Du Nord

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THE RADIATORS 12/30-31 Great American Music Hall

NEW YEAR'S EVE AT BIMBO'S CASINO ROYALE THE JIMMY BOND ORCHESTRA 12/31 Bimbo's

DAVE WAKELING 12/31 Phoenix Hotel

KID 606 LUCKY STARS MELVINSFANTOMAS BIG BAND 12/31 Slim's

\*GALACTIC OZOMATLI

12/31 The Warfield

PETROL

12/31 Cafe Du Nord \*VAN MORRISON

LINDA GAIL LEWIS 1/3/01 The Warfield

**DEKE DICKERSON &** THE ECCO FONICS 1/5/01 Great American

Music Hall PRIDE & JOY

1/5/01 Bimbo's \*COWBOY MOUTH

THE YOUNG **DUBLINERS** 1/12/01 The Fillmore

**DIXIE DREGS** STEVE MORSE BAND WILLY PORTER 1/16/01 Slim's

\*THE IAYHAWKS NEKO CASE & HER BOYFRIENDS 1/19/01 The Fillmore

THE ORIGINAL COMETS BIG SANDY & HIS FLY-RITE BOYS THE STILLMEN 1/19/01 Bimbo's

IAN MOORE 1/20/01 Bottom of the

R.L. BURNSIDE

1/24/01 Great American Music Hall

BLACK HEART PROCESSION

1/27/01 Great American Music Hall

BEAU SOLEIL AVEC MICHAEL DOUCET 2/01/00 Great American Music Hall

RICHARD **ASHCROFT** 2/5/01 Bimbo's

DEEP BANANA BLACKOUT

THE MOTET 2/15/01 Great American Music Hall

\*WILLIE NELSON 2/21/01-2/22/01 The FIllmore

the buzz THE SMART SET WESTERN **MOVER** 1/24/01 Cafe Du Nord



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#### theater

## Safe house

#### Brava! opens new space with Belén — A Book of Hours. By Brad Rosenstein

fter experiencing the multiple delays and cost overruns that seem to be standard in creating new theater spaces here, Brava! for Women in the Arts finally opened the doors of its Brava Theater Center last week. Actually, there wasn't really a door, because there wasn't really a wall -- the lobby is still a strippeddown concrete shell, the bathrooms are only partly functional, the auditorium is half painted, and lights, electricity, and heat were only present for opening night thanks to the timely arrival of a generator. But Brava! has ample reason to celebrate its extensive refurbishment of the old York Theatre on 24th Street, which when finally completed will be a marvelous addition to a town losing art spaces at a furious rate.

It's no accident that BTC's inaugural season is opening with a piece about a building, although one with a far less agreeable history than Brava means to initiate. Belén - A Book of Hours evokes the Recogimento Belén, a 17thcentury Catholic "sanctuary" for single women in Mexico City. Belén, a harsh, repressive environment its inhabitants were never allowed to leave, spawned a legacy of suicide and madness. The building was later transformed into one of Mexico's most notoriously brutal prisons and finally demolished in 1935.

This cheery spot inspired Massachusetts poet Catherine Sasanov to create a cycle of 12 poems, which under the direction of Ruth Malaczech have been crafted into an Obie Award-winning Mabou Mines production. In keeping with the Catholic character of its subject, the production's visual conceit is a book of hours, the stage divided like a breviary into spaces for a painting and a prayer. Sasanov's poems, gracefully translated into Spanish by Luz Aurora Pimentel and Alberto Blanco, comprise the litany, sung by composer-performer Liliana Felipe. Choreographeractor Jesusa Rodriguez supplies the images, taking on the nearly silent role of a Mexican everywoman in a domestic prison who suffers many of the same torments as Belén's.

Rodriguez is a precise and eloquent mime, and whether dancing an ominous duet with a nasty-looking knife or coating her face and torso in flour to obliterate her dark skin, she crafts this woman's household rituals into icons of pain, desire, and wry humor. Felipe is an equally formidable presence, a possessed mariachi whose driving piano score skips nimbly from a frenzied danzón to a sacred chant, her rich growl of a voice cutting to the heart of every syllable.

The other major element here, emerging as a character in its own right, is Julie Archer's design: shards of a building and a curtain of rebozos

onto which slides, video, and overhead projections are thrown. The texts of the poems in their original English are blended with a cascade of images (water, leaves, photographs, religious icons) that give the evening a haunting, handmade look.

It all makes for a tremendously rich stew, but the result is only fitfully affecting. The main through line for the piece is the suffering of women, and it gets to be a pretty tired rant. The horrors of Belén in its various incarnations are a mere jumping-off point for citing all the ways women have been and continue to be abused by the forces of classism, sexism, racism, religion, economics, and patriarchal society in general. Sasanov's poetry puts forth some striking imagery and rhythms, displaying a bracing range of tone from defiance to reverence. But Sasanov makes her points with all the subtlety of the pickax that wends through the poems, and just in case we miss them, she underscores them further with photoflash texts and spoken "outbursts" that bring Belén's awful legacy into the present.

Mariana Carreño's weak performance of the outbursts also pales beside such powerhouses as Rodriguez and Felipe, who are clearly nobody's victims. These two exceptional talents put flesh on Sasanov's somewhat skeletal text, particularizing its generalizations, leavening its ascetic approach with playfulness and passion, and giving complex voice to the voiceless. Malaczech beautifully blends all of the evening's elements into a striking meditation, although the book of hours concept gets limiting: the strongest moments come on the few occasions when Felipe and Rodriguez transgress their physical boundaries and interact directly. Strangely though, for all its justifiable anger and outrage, the piece seems reluctant to shake off the Catholicism it wears like a shroud.

Belén is, finally, a little too much in love with its own martyrdom. ❖

Belén - A Book of Hours. Wed/13-Sun/17, 8 p.m., Brava Theater Center, 2789 24th St., S.F. \$18-\$28. (415) 641-7657



Silent protest: In Belén — A Book of Hours Jesusa Rodriguez is a precise and eloquent mime, crafting household rituals into icons of pain, desire, and wry humor.

## **Testify**

By Summer Burkes

aturday morning starts dreamily and in half time, with a low, quiet, balmy fog bathing the docks of Sausalito in a shroud of privacy and calm. The giant yachts — this is the real estate of the richest of the rich in the States that sit in rows on the water rock back and forth like they're content in their masters' wealth. (Who owns these? Investment bankers? One-hitwonder songwriters? Vintners? Pharmaceutical moguls? Guatemalan fabric importers? Dot-com geekboys? Trustafarians?) We tiptoe between the boats, jaws agape, doing the math, picking the ones we like, feeling as small as ants, sensing the covetousness rise within us like a poison, sensing the bay water push it back down and clean it out. Tranquility, not riches, matters more.

So then it seems even more jarring to enter the blackened hallway of King Street Garage sometime after noon, the loud punk rock inside bouncing off the reflective walls and out into the street across from the also-enormous new ballpark. The black-anddenim-clad creatures of the night

shisfuck disperses old-school flavor from the Damned and Mötley Crüe while hungover heshers sling back the hair of the dog and devour some catered food. Local rock and punk bands, all quality and tinnitus inducing, take turns on the stage as the audience forgets the hairs and begins to consume the entire dog. (The ridiculously low admission price includes all you can eat and drink.) Throughout the seven-hour event, though people seem mindful of the cause, there are no speakers or sermons about AIDS, and the MC keeps all stage banter to a minimum. These people know the drill: metalheads have short attention spans; just raise the money and shut up and play.

And finally, the reason that longhairs and pompadours and Liberty spikes have all dragged themselves down here: Testament. The localborn gods of thrash metal, and one of the few (originally) all-minority metal bands anywhere, have only two original members in the lineup, but no matter. Headbanging, necktwirling speed metal issues forth from the stage like a sonic Sherman tank;

shoes. Onstage below, the hesher hair is flying like hay in a thresher.

The thing is," my Testament-loving companion says, "Testament have been around for a long time. They were the first band to sound like this — they just got left behind. Metallica grabbed their torch and ran with it. They're a very influential, but not necessarily mind-blowing, band. For boys, anyway." It's true: as with relentless house, boring gangsta rap, and one-note California new-punk, long and short sounds and silences don't figure in to Testament's repertoire as much as pure, unfettered aggression without hesitation. So (theoretically) it sounds conquering and menacing to boys, and it's not quite enjoyable but nevertheless tolerated in lieu of something better by many of the girls. ball, a DKNY men's suit, some Birkenstocks, a rental Harley, an autographed Puff Daddy jacket, Erykah Badu's head wrap, Glamorama haircuts, Tori Amos's Steve Maddens, Ricky Martin and Madonna "collections," and Jennifer Lopez's high heels which, by the way, are an astoundingly jolie-laide example of modern shoe architecture. Having made the rounds, and certainly not anticipating bidding on any throwaways by famous strangers, we head to Naughty Santa's Black Market to do some affordable holiday shopping.

Outside SomArts, we're cheerily greeted by a candy-striped, fur-hatted Ms. Claus and a Christmas cabaret elf in sylvan dress and top hat. We avail ourselves of a space heater, warming our hands next to the hands of a

drinkers wait patiently on the other side of the bazaar, under the overpass by the highway. The Fisherman's Famous burlesque band and a host of girl dancers wail and go-go away inside, but this scene is far more compelling to stand around. Plus, a walkthrough reveals that it's getting really crowded in there - a naked man in leather collar and a woman in seethrough lace bodysuit straddle the upstairs handrail and get ribald with walkersby below. And Santas - Santas everywhere.

Out front, two tall bikes ride by a supercherry, supervintage Ford truck as a blond porn star minces out of a passenger door in baby blue latex. Overstimulated, we check the backs of our eyelids while sandwiched between a bench and PeopleHater's forklift. One show off jumps on and starts the engine, and one ton of metal lurches forward and almost crushes our legs. Something about alcohol and heavy machinery? His giggly-girl date sits on his lap as some passersby stand on the blades. Idiot lifts them all to the sky. Someone tells him his forklift hijacking is a bad idea. "Hey, I didn't leave the keys in there — somebody else did." He then steals the kev.

(It's worth noting that as we pile back in the car to LifeBeat, phase three, there's a car in front of ours with a bumper sticker that says, "Stupidity should be painful.")

"OK, we can't be offensively heterosexual in here," my cherub-faced male companion says as we walk up to the now-a-line-around-the-block Universe for Club AID, "but don't leave me. I'm serious." Past a LifeBeat information booth and a table covered with mint-flavored condoms, it's the biggest sausage party I've ever seen, ever. Incredibly buff gym-boys go-go dance on platforms and serve drinks to other incredibly buff gymboys, and everyone in here is so physically pumped up and well groomed and aftershaven and deodorized that it's pretty much the antithesis of this afternoon's Testament show. A thumping, galloping beat calls the shirtless and tank-topped legions to party-arms, and I am one of three girls that I see in here. The boys have come out to play all night, as with most Saturday nights here at Universe — but tonight the bass line pumps money into the war against the epidemic.

After my companion gets his ass grabbed and his chin pinched a few times, he's hesitant to venture out on the huge dance floor with me and adamant that I don't go alone. "It's like Ten 15 Folsom, but for boys instead of girls!" I comfort him. "Something tells me," he points out, "that these guys are a whole lot more polite about flirting than the straight guys at Ten 15." Indeed, it's Friendly Tailhook, straight-boy version ... every breeder boy should do it once. He adopts a Sling Blade rasp and a lecherous stare and a raised eyebrow and jokes, "Hey, well, we're all pink on the inside, right?" &



Metal up your AIDS: Testament headlines GarageAID.

Spreading holiday menace: PeopleHater play for the naughty throng at Naughty Santa's.

squint in the foggy sun as they congregate outside and choose to breathe in smoke rather than air: there are hardcore metalheads who wouldn't be caught dead wearing eyeliner or zebra-skin belts, and there are punks who wouldn't be caught dead in a Slipknot shirt or baggy Robin Hood boots or patchouli. They've all collectively rolled out of bed to rock out at GarageAid, the first of three LifeBeat events that happen today to raise money to fight AIDS.

Inside, as our bright eyes take ages to adjust to the lack of light, DJ WhatTestament's Sasquatch-looking singer fingers his bottomless mic stand like it's a fretless bass as he growls and paces. The too-polite mosh pit finally erupts after three songs.

Up on the bridge that connects one upper level of the cavernous garage with the other, we stand next to a **Heavy Metal Parking Lot**-correct speed freak: a Joan Jetted, beer-bellied, faded-jeansed, haltered-rock-Tshirted, hard-drinking, gacked-out, wildly gesticulating chatterbox who dances around like she has a hamster in her underwear and baloney in her

In fact, this could be the most breeder-macho AIDS benefit ever to be held in San Francisco. By dinnertime, most of the rabid fans are opting for the liquid diet, and all but one bar is out of beer. Time for the next party.

Around the corner at Club Universe, phase two of LifeBeat day continues with a VIP Cocktail Party and silent auction. White swoopy

sheets of fabric on the ceiling and a gargantuan flower centerpiece perch regally above Christmas-lit ficus trees and white-candle lanterns that hang throughout the dance club. Interstellar ambient music completes the chimerical vibe.

Bands from the first phase mill around scoring more food, looking entirely conspicuous in a sea of cleanshaven and carefully-coiffed partygoers who mingle and mill around and see who's bid on such "celebrity auction" items as Willie Brown's tie, Meriah Carcy's jeans a Jeff Kent basereindeer, a chicken, a couple naked guys, and a rotating cast of prochemical and cleverly outfitted naughty Santas in homemade and cheap rental suits and wigs and beards. Inside the joint, a decidedly New American Family Christmas crafts sale is about as far away from shopping malls as it can get: latex outfits, custom vagina boxes, sparkly gloves, glass ponytail holders, erotic photography, lewd decals, feathery purses, butterfly wings, camouflage whips, functional speculums, fingerless gloves, Weebil wine corks, glass pipes, and hip shower curtains serve as welcome holiday items to consume. "Everybody in sex bungees," my companion jokes, dissing the Gap as he boings a dangerous-looking elastic contraption up and down.

In the corner of the SomArts parking lot, PeopleHater set up behind the barrier of an oversize, homemade coffin. People(haters) with hard hats mill around and fiddle with inflatable two-story plastic figures and some angry, stabbing-knifed scary faces on mobile vehicles with engines. Beer

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Mark Herlihy on Urban Revolutions: "The new album is about producing beats. It's not just your 'P'm going to find a break and loop it.' This is song, structure, and compositions. We're creating standards."

## The cult of the drum

#### Future Primitive Soundsessions' *Urban Revolutions* is about music that's accessible and insurrectionist. By Mosi Reeves

o me, a complete DJ can mix, can scratch, can rock a party, and digs for breaks. Those are your four elements within DJing," opines Mark Herlihy, owner of Future Primitive Sound. "It's about the guy who tries to push himself to do all of it, and then having a feel for the crowd and rocking the crowd, while, at the same time, educating them ... beyond rocking the party, telling them something."

Over the past several years Herlihy has worked to popularize this aesthetic. His wildly successful concert series, the Future Primitive Soundsessions, is defiantly purist, sticking almost entirely to so-called golden-age hip-hop (1986-92), the funk and soul records that era prodigiously sampled, and a smattering of new-school titles by acts such as Gangstarr, Dilated Peoples, and Mos Def. Meanwhile,

his record label, Future Primitive Sound, documents the philosophy promoted by his events, releasing "soundsessions" by Z-Trip and Radar and by Shortkut and Cut Chemist.

While these events often feature well-known DJs such as DJ Spooky, DJ Q-Bert, Peanut Butter Wolf, Mixmaster Mike, and Polywog as headliners, the majority of the work is carried out hy like-minded local mixologists such as Toph One, Cool Chris, Romanowski, and DJ Anna. With their help, Future Primitive Sound has posited itself at the center of a distinctly Bay Area phenomenon, one that prides itself on juxtaposing Curtis Mayfield, Pete Rock and C.L. Smooth, and Black Star during a given DJ set, or even within a minute's time.

"It's not like 'Oh, it's some new shit. We're just picking up on

breaks," Herlihy says. "Z-Trip and Cut Chemist have been DJing for 20 years. Cut Chemist has been DJing and collecting [records] on a heavy level since he was nine years old. Z-Trip, the same ... these guys have been influenced by Kool Herc, Grandmaster Flash, Afrika Bambaataa, Jazzy Jeff, by all the original beat-diggers out there and the concept of breaks.

"In the early days of hip-hop DJing, it was all about the concept of the breaks: that part in any record, whether it be jazz, rock 'n' roll, country music, polka beats, whatever it may be, that little chunk that is butter, got that rhythm, and repeating that chunk over and over again. We're definitely the cult of the drum."

With the Future Primitive Soundsessions, Herlihy has created events remarkable for their focus on the DJ as avatar of the rare groove. One installment, the now-famous 45 Session, found Cut Chemist and DI Shadow spinning 7-inch singles on four turntables. The session gave the well-known mixologists a chance to show off their extensive collection of old funk 45s, and they eagerly played alongside each other, riffing together like a pair of jazz musicians.

In addition to the DIs, Future Primitive Soundsessions often features local painters such as Doze, D23, AM Radio, Krush, and Greg Galinski. Most of them, Herlihy says, are products of the "neograffiti movement," aerosol artists who transferred their skills from concrete walls to canvas. "DJing is a true postmodern art form — cut 'n' paste shit. Our art is like that."

Though MCs rarely appear onstage — leaving out a crucial portion of the mythic "four element" vision of hip-hop culture — there's usually plenty of dancing of all kinds. The Future Primitive Soundsessions are usually an elaborate affair, a mixture of art, music, and free-spirited revelry that take months of coordination to put together. Herlihy, for his part, admits he considers his time-consuming assembly of various participants under a powerful concept an art form in itself. "I want to be the creative force," he says, " [where] different artists become part of these ideas I create. Future Primitive started bringing that out of me - different concepts, not just theme parties.

"Maybe I'm just a frustrated DI, I want to meld these different styles that I never saw ... everybody gets so caught up in their genre and their style, even within hip-hop. There are hip-hoppers who focus on scratching all day long, and DJs who focus on collecting. And I was like, 'I want to hear both of them," he says. "I want to bring in as many different forms of expression in art that make sense in my shows without it being too avant-garde."

The Future Primitive Soundsessions parties have exerted a considerable influence on the local club scene. Back in 1996, when the series first began, "real hip-hop" meant turntablism, scratching, and noise manipulation. Rare grooves and breaks were ripped into snippets and verses and then discombobulated through a DJs relentless juggling and cutting.

At events like the 1998 Deep Concentration Tour for the groundbreaking compilation of the same name (headlined in part, coincidentally, by Cut Chemist), the emphasis was definitely on cutting, not beat mixing, and DJs scratched up a storm, forcing the crowd to dance along or stare, in a daze, at the turntablist on stage. The demise of scratching on the club scene and the subsequent return to breakbeat blends are all trends the Future Primitive Soundsession series portended.

Though the tides have shifted considerably, change hasn't come without some upheaval. A recent article

in URB magazine featuring the supergroup Triple Threat DJs (Short kut, Vin Roc, and Apollo) illustrated the backlash. Despite being known for their mastery of scratching, the three took to dissing DJs who rely on traditional turntablist techniques, protesting that the term itself "bothers the shit out of me right now."

When asked about the article, Herlihy says, "People made this really huge deal out of turntablism. It became this fad, this media cliché. I think it's a backlash against that. No artist likes to be categorized. I think it was misconstrued ... I don't think those guys would ever say scratching is wack. But if all you do is scratch, hell yeah, that's wack!"

That's definitely not the only thing we're about," Herlihy continues. "But when it comes to live performances, everyone [I work with] can bring those skills and cut. There are very few DJs who can do both [cut and mix breaks], and I look for that."

If the previous "scratch era" has its recorded documents (the Deep Concentration compilations, DJ Q-Bert's Wave Twisters), then Future Primitive Sound plans to offer theirs early next year in the form of Urban Revolutions.

"The new album is about producing beats," Herlihy explains, albeit beats made through collating various sounds from different records. "It's not just your 'I'm going to find a break and loop it.' This is song, structure, and compositions," he says. 'We're creating standards."

However, Urban Revolutions shares a lot with the Return of the DJ, the classic Bomb Records compilations that kick-started the turntablist movement. Like those late-'90s efforts, Urban Revolutions' 15 instrumentals sport a collagist framework and are driven by frenetic sampling and abrupt rhythmic shifts. One highlight, "Liquid Dub" by Tino, tosses interpolated catchphrases like "b-boy" and "the mic" over a simmering patchwork of percussion; another revisits DJ Shadow and Cut Chemist's "Live at the 45 Session" and its ironic deification of Slurpees.

The difference, then, isn't in the music but in the role Urban Revolutions plays as lasting evidence of the Future Primitive Soundsessions and the DJs it features — with the emphasis on making music that's accessible enough for dancing yet insurrectionist enough to educate and enlighten. Likewise, the DJs who appear on it — the Bulletproof Space Travelers, J-Boogie's Dubtronic Science, and DJ Design, among others — aren't showing off their skills but distilling years of party-rocking and mixing competitions into clean, unobtrusive jams that are musical as well as club savvy. In the end, the Future Primitive Sound is less a revolution than an important evolution in San Francisco's hip-hop scene. ❖

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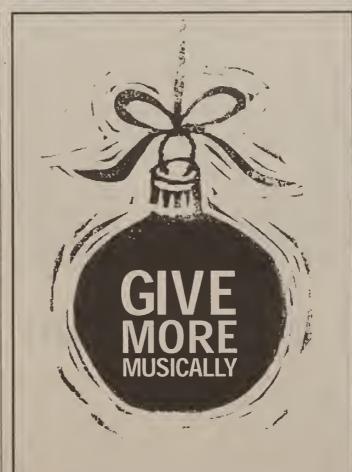
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### BARS & GLUEBS



Inebriated insurrection: Disguised rebels get soused at Sacrifice during a guerilla queer invasion.

### Guerrilla queer bar

#### They're here; they're queer; they'd just like a little drink. By Joyce Slaton

riday, Nov. 17, midnight: bars in the city are packed with end-of-the-week drinkers, and this Friday is no exception. All over the Castro sleek boys with \$200 highlight jobs, Mossimo T-shirts, and gleaming Fluevog shoes eye each other, leaning against the wall and sipping beers at Badlands or watching fresh meat in leather saunter into Daddy's.

The faces are either young and pert or carefully preserved and Lancômed to look that way under the black lights, the bodies lovingly gymsculpted and rippling under the regulation tight white T-shirts. If it weren't for the queer tourists gawking at the real live San Francisco homosexuals, the scene could be just another night at Any Queer Bar, USA.

But tonight the Castro bar circuit is missing something: about 300 barcrawlers. Because a rowdy band of renegade queers is out to shanghai another weird, foreign, maybe even forgotten San Francisco space and turn it into an establishment queerer than the bathrooms at the Detour. Tonight is a Guerilla Queer Bar, and that's a lot different from making the scene with the bridge-and-tunnel queers at the Café.

"Calling all fags! Calling all fags!" intones the man with the bullhorn, an eddy in the crowd of queers surging down O'Farrell Street. An e-mail has summoned them to this location, the low-profile bar Gangway on Larkin Street in the decidedly unfashionable Tenderloin. The Gangway was once part of a mighty circuit of Polk Gulch gay hot spots, but it's now nearly for-

gotten by the Castro-haunting queer crowd and is frequented mainly by a sparse group of neighborhood queers who crave a quiet spot to drink without having to look cruise-worthy for a critical audience.

Tonight, however, the bar is cheek-to-cheek crowded, a hum rising up above hordes of overexcited boys in jeans and leather coats, a few sleek punk rock girls with nose rings, a sprinkling of drag queens, and a Sister of Perpetual Indulgence thrown in for good measure, all of them talking, drinking, dancing, and cavorting like they'd never do when in too-cool cruise mode on any other Friday night.

The change in the scenery is obviously confusing the regulars. "What the hell is going on in here?" slurs the stolid dyke to my left, who's obviously sitting at her usual spot at the bar.

"Guerilla Queer Bar!" shouts the well-coifed man to her left.

"What the hell is that?" demands the dyke.

"Um." He thinks for a second. "A party."

And it is. When the crowd starts spilling out of the bar and into the street, the GQB leaders round 'em up with a bullhorn blasting "Bridge on the River Kwai," herding the crowd in an impromptu parade around the 'Loin, ending up at Edinburgh Castle, where the crowd surges in and demands beer. A few beers and a few off-the-cuff go-go dances on the balcony later, the crowd parades again, jayskipping merrily across streets, far from the crosswalks, blowing kisses at be-

mused taxicab drivers and crack-addled locals, stopping on corners to do drunken bump-and-grinds with delighted tranny streetwalkers, suddenly stopping at the Hob Nob and inviting the entire crowd in just so one guy can use the bathroom.

The cacophonous procession finally ends up at the High Tide, turning the men's room, the hallway, the bar stools, even the High Tide's phone booth into a sea of wriggling bodies as boys chat each other up, exchanging phone numbers, sloppy grope-heavy public kisses, and drunken double entendres. I myself have gotten so high on kamikazes I commandeer the bullhorn and try to convince a blond Twinkie to make out with my friend in the phone booth.

"Hey, are you single?" I shriek at him. "Because my friend is really cute."

Across the room somebody stands up on the bar to dance to the Madonna song on the jukebox and immediately whacks his head on the low ceiling. He should have heeded the example of the perky bartender, who's dancing behind the bar in solidarity with her customers and alternately screaming "Last call!" and "Shut up!" to customers who dare to criticize her serving. And with all this going on, my new GQB friend is trying to convince me that this is positively tame compared to the tsunami that occurred when GQB took over the swanky W Hotel bar on Folsom Street Fair weekend.

"Oh, it was beautiful," he sighs. "Some weird chick was walking around with a giant black leather dildo on, boinking anyone who'd stand still. Girls and boys were spanking each other on the stairs. And people kept stealing bamboo from the flower arrangements in the bathroom and whipping each other with it all over the bar."

And some people think the Castro scene is the height of gay outlaw culture.

. "It just felt to me like the city was in a rut," says Barney Schlockum (not his real name), the guy who came up with the idea for Guerilla Queer Bar. Barney, like the rest of his GQB cohorts, spoke under a pseudonym — none of them want to attract local notoriety. "If there isn't a GQB going on, everyone's at the Café with the bad music or in the other gay bars where everything's the same week to week. Or cruising for sex on the Internet. I wanted to shake things up a little. I was bored."

So were Barney's friends, a small crowd of twentysomething queer boys who answered my request for an interview by taking me along on their latest GQB research trip, a peek around a few bars in the 'Loin to see which ones could host a huge GQB crowd. These boys say they're stultified by what they see as homogenous, predictable, and thus boring gay-bar culture.

"We just wanted to escape the 'gauntlet' atmosphere of gay bars — they're very cruisy but not so much fun. We wanted people to enjoy themselves out of the mean-spirited atmosphere," Hunter says.

So they planned their first event, a

revel at Tango Tango on Karaoke Night, May 31, 2000.

"It's a gay bar, but it's one that's forgotten about by the Castro crowd, and it's frozen in the 1980s," Mike says, grinning.

"Ferns and pink neon," shudders the man calling himself Fanny San Andreas.

They sent out e-mails inviting every queer they knew to the event, posted information on Bay Area counterculture listserv the Squid List, and basically just showed up at the Tango Tango at the appointed time, not knowing whether their invitation had fallen on deaf ears. They were amazed to find that almost 100 curious people showed up to croon karaoke standards, get falling-down drunk, and be as ridiculous as they can't be in the Castro.

"It was the drunkest karaoke I've ever seen," reminisces Barney, while Hunter tells tales of songs sung and naysayers conquered. "I sang a country song, 'I'm Gonna Hire a Wino to Decorate Our Home,' "he says proudly, "and we had about a half-dozen background singers up on the bar clucking the lyrics like the chicken in the 'Pink Flamingos' sex scene."

"They were fun people," remembers Tango Tango bartender Jason Kim, obviously not a man who scorns a good bar-top singing session. "They sang, they had fun, we had fun. They're welcome back anytime."

"It was beautiful," John says. "It was like the first day of school — everyone

talked to everyone, unlike the way people usually clique up in bars and just stare at each other. It was so friendly."

Friendly enough that the events don't even offend the staff of the bars they visit, who might rightly be a little alarmed at finding a vast crowd suddenly overtaking quiet spots. But at all the bars we contacted, management expressed only the greatest enthusiasm for the events. Gangway bartender Shane Singleton, a veteran of a few GQBs himself, actually knew ahead of time that the crowd would show but neglected to tell the other bartenders of the imminent insurrection, just to mess with them.

"We served about 300 drinks in an hour and a half," Shane says. "It was totally packed, so packed that I went to the corner store to get a beer rather than getting one at the bar, but also totally fun. And the people were great tippers."

Even the W Hotel event raised few eyebrows at the XYZ Bar.

"They were one of the nicest, tamest, best-tipping groups we've ever had," general manager Carla Snow says enthusiastically. "We really enjoyed having them here. It was a little overwhelming to the hotel guests, as they were dressed, well, differently than our normal clientele. But they were just partying and having a good time, and we loved it."

Snow didn't even seem to mind that revelers were reportedly stealing bamboo from the bathroom flower arrangements and using the stems as SM tools. "Oh, people steal stuff from the flower arrangements all the time," she pooh-poohs.

It seems the GQB silliness is infectious, even for bartenders suddenly asked to pour drinks for hundreds of partygoers.

"A lot of gay guys rely on drugs as Continued on page 9



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### ESARS & GEUIES



Get down, get down: Two unidentified party boys grin for Mama at the W Hotel.

#### Guerrilla

From page 6

an icebreaker, but GQB is like a field trip where everyone's part of the same group, which brings people together," Barney says. And not just together in the "Let's go home for hot monkey love" kind of way that predominates at most gay bars. Michael adds, "There's always the possibility of hooking up at GQB, but since you go just to have a good time, it's not so tense."

After the Tango Tango triumph, the GQB boys knew they were on to something. Since then they've planned events about every month or so, leading charges variously to the Crow Bar, Sacrifice, the Top, the W Hotel Bar on Folsom Street Fair weekend, and the Tonga Room. That last one proved to be ridiculously successful, drawing a crowd of more than 100 queers to the tourist-trap bar in the swank Hotel Fairmont. While the queers guzzled Singapore slings and cruised each other, a crowd of tourists from a Gray Line bus showed up and started dancing delightedly with the GQB crowd.

"We were giving umbrellas to the old ladies when it was raining inside," Hunter says. "They took pictures and said they were gonna tell their grandkids. They were so happy. After all, everybody who comes to California wants to see flakes and fruits and nuts."

And then there was the pre-Halloween event called Take Back the Marina, a Dionysian revel where as many as 300 queers and queerfriendly types showed up to invade an area of town the GQB boys term "white and uptight," parading from bar to bar and stopping traffic up and down Lombard Street as they went.

They even took a turn past Mel's Diner, turning the place instantly into a human fishbowl as the revelers crowded around to pound on the glass windows.

"The manager blocked the door with his body and within five seconds all the windows were filled up with freak faces," Hunter says. "I stepped up in zombie-waitress drag and said, 'If you let me take one order, I'll make all these people go away.' The manager said 'Cool!' and opened the door. A waiter gave me his pad and I took the order, abusing the customers all the while."

"Hunter was giving orders, not taking them," John says, grinning.

"What a night," sighs Michael, who grew up in the Bay Area. "Now that's why I live in San Francisco."

Those who hear about GQB, either from a friend or by signing on to the mailing list — the S.F.-based list now has more than 1,100 subscribers — assume that GQB is a sort of political movement, a group of queers trying to make a sociopolitical statement by bringing queer culture into straight spaces. But that's not exactly the truth, explain the GQB boys.

"It's much more about getting everybody to loosen up and have fun and explore some unusual spaces than trying to be political," Barney says.

"People always ask us if we're making a political statement," Hunter says. "We're not, other than the casual political statement of gathering together a bunch of queers in a space which wasn't made specifically for them."

"It's all about absurdity," John adds.
"We want the weirdness of people in an odd space, not Cher and cosmos in the Castro."

So when GQB goes bar picking they look for spaces that are overlooked, kitschy, odd, spacious, and either totally uptight, like the W bar, or totally welcoming, like Edinburgh Castle. They variously pick gay and straight bars, figuring that the crowd they summon is unusual enough in any bar, gay or straight.

"It's the diversity of the crowd we like," says John, who agrees with his compatriots that women, straight people, and all flavors of queer are welcome. "We'll get lipstick lesbians, guys in chaps, bears, guys in Rolo from head to toe," Fanny says.

Though they'll pick just about any bar, one of GQB's main aims is to stay away from the Castro. Which might seem odd to the outsider, considering that the Castro is generally accepted to be the gayest gay neighborhood of

them all and a haven for gay culture. But it's the GQB boys' reaction to the Castro that reveals the political underpinnings of what they see as just fun.

Instead of viewing the Castro as a haven where they can live openly gay lives free from the expectations of repressive straights, the GQB boys see the Castro hood as ground zero for an aseptic gay homogeneity and set of expectations they'd like to flee. Instead of rebelling against straight culture, they're sending up queer culture, which at first glance seems refreshingly modern. But it's a scenario that's repeated itself a number of times around the Bay, and what seems an anomaly to the 2000 observer would have seemed quite familiar to 1950s queers.

Susan Stryker, executive director of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Historical Society, explains. "At least every 10 years or so it seems the upcoming generation of queer people reinvent themselves," she says. "The best example I can think of, the one that most closely parallels the sort of movement we're talking about, would be the gay liberation movement of the later '60s."

Though homosexuality wasn't out of the closet as we now define the phrase, many preliberation queers had managed to carve out niches for themselves where they could live a semiopen gay life and not face heavy persecution. Often they'd be closeted at work, saving sexual and romantic expression for certain areas of town.

"It's not that gays were invisible but [that] the sexual economy was different before gay lib," Stryker says. "They might live all over the city, but they came to certain areas for sexual hehavior; it's not like the gay ghetto of the Castro where you can have your business and your night life and all the pieces of your life together."

A 1940s–50s era queer man or woman in San Francisco would be likely to spend nights in North Beach or Polk Gulch depending on what kind of entertainment he or she was after. Polk Gulch was the pickup and vice spot, where queers would go to find a trick and straights would head to score drugs. North Beach was more the nightclub district, where movie stars like Tallulah Bankhead would slum it to hear Johnny Mathis or jazz at the Ten Angel or the Blackhawk, with colorfully flamboyant homosexuals serving as the backdrop.

There were even a couple of places catering to the cross-dressing crowd: the recently closed drag-show empire Finnochio's, and Mona's, a touristy lesbian joint with drag kings and girls in male waiter drag that ran newspaper ads inviting customers to the spot "where girls will be boys." The North Beach area accepted, even reveled in total eccentrics like Jose Sarria, the 'Nightingale of Montgomery Street," who performed his Madame Butterfly drag act at the Black Cat for tourists and queers alike. (Incidentally, Sarria also created the drag Imperial Court System by inaugurating himself the

first Empress Jose I in 1964). Queers were accepted, even venerated, as long as they stayed in their place and acted in certain socially acceptable ways — just the same way as it's OK for drag queens and leather daddies to cruise the Castro today as long as they keep their "deviant" sexual behavior well west of Van Ness.

But though tourists accepted the "fahulous" queers and the rest of the city put up with them as long as they stayed a nightclub fixture, gay people had to segment their lives into day and night, which the '60s gay liberationists deplored.

"The gay liberationists were [arguing that] you should be a gay person 24-7 and you should be gay anytime, anywhere, and to not be able to express that was a form of political repression," Stryker says.

The gay liberation movement, primarily made up of baby boomers, reviled the 1950s gays who kept their sexual behavior clandestine, referring to them as "Aunt Thomasinas and Thomases" in the literature of the time. They deplored the idea that gay people had to act a certain way to be acceptable, that they had to confine their queerness to a string of bars in certain areas of the town. They rejected the idea that queers all had to look, dress, act, and think alike.

And they championed the Castro as a place where they could be themselves — all day, everyday — without worrying about getting flack. But then a new generation of queers came to the Castro, and instead of finding a place where they could be queer without fear, they found a place where it's expected that the denizens will look, dress, act, and think alike.

So they rebelled — and in ways that would seem pretty familiar to the rebelling baby boomers of the '60s. Even though gay liberationists wrote their manifestos, gave their speeches,

and lived their lives a good 40 years before the GQB boys arrived, they defined a moment in queer history, just the way the GQB outings do under the guise of heing just another wacky thing to do on a San Francisco weekend night.

Whether what comes out of GQB will be a clarion call for more individualism and socioeconomic diversity in S.F. gay life or just a string of decadent culture-jamming nights is as yet unclear — but for the foreseeable future the GQB crew plan to keep throwing their parties in the Bay Area for "as long as it's fun," as John put it.

GQB has already spread to a few other cities, such as Austin, Philadelphia, and Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, where GQB importers have started their own mailing lists and events to "provide new venues for all homos — whether they be clones or colonists," as Austin's Rich MacKinnon said. The GQB movement has even seemingly gone global; Webmasters at a German mirror site have translated the GQB manifestos and are planning Deustchland GQB events.

Looks like San Francisco isn't the only place with a gay culture that, despite its visibility, can still be an oppressive enough yoke to merit GQB-style insurrections by rebellious queers. But as usual, San Francisco is ground zero for cultural shifts that seem to ripple out from our little city like radiation from a nuclear plant. Could it be that GQB has defined a moment, just like the gay liberationists in the '60s, the AIDS activists in the '80s, and the sex radicals of the '90s?

"Honey, for more than a century people have been coming to this city and making it their own," Stryker says. "If you don't like the queer culture you can find, then go out and make some of your own." .\*



It's raining queers: Michael and Susie get wet at the Tonga room.

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### EBARS & GLUEBS



Barren wasteland: Located in the no-man's-land of 16th and Third Streets, Sno-Drift warms the weary wanderer with the foofiest of drinks.

### **New bars in town**

This year's crop. By Steve Robles

n a drunken haze, I swept through a bunch of newly opened bars so that I could bring our faithful readers the latest news on where to get soused. Some of these bars were even so-called yuppie bars, a term that many city denizens practically spit through their teeth. But instead of perpetuating the myth of the "bad" yuppie bar, I'll just describe each bar on its own merits instead of singling out a particular demographic for insults or praise.

Realizing that at least a couple of these establishments have been known to be inhumanly packed on weekends, I chose to visit them on weekdays instead. This way, I could find out what these places are actually like rather than what it felt like to elbow a hundred bespectacled squids in the esophagus to get a cosmo.

Also, for the hardened San Francisco clubgoing, antiyuppie bar set: it's time for you to realize that few developers are interested in opening a new dive bar. There are still a few classic dives

in this city, despite overwhelming development, and if these suit you, you should stick to 'em (see "In Praise of the Dive Bar," page 21). But, I have to admit, despite the occasional radically overpriced cocktail, it's nice to go into a newly furbished bathroom that doesn't smell like the Tenderloin on a hot summer day (i.e., a 1,000-year-old puddle of piss).

I had been hearing ahout **Ruby Skye** since it opened a few months back but had never had a chance to see it until Thievery Corporation played there last month. It seemed like kind of a weird spot for a nightclub, right at the edge of Union Square on Mason Street, but the decor came highly recommended.

Sure enough, I wasn't disappointed. The owners spent about \$3 million to soup up this 19th-century theater, and it shows. It's pretty lavish, with columns rising to the immaculately decked-out high ceilings. It proved to be a perfect spot for the Thievery Corp. guys, whose tasteful downtempo

stylings are already steeped in class, baby.

I came in just as the band started, so I didn't have time to squeeze through to the bar. But after successfully flirting with one of the guys from Blasthaus (who were putting on the show). I managed to weasel my way into the superswank VIP lounge, whose large window looked out directly over the stage. I know, I'm a total whore. It was hella worth it, though, for soon I was quaffing Heinekens and helping myself to the Matterhornesque mountain o' cheese therein.

Soon I was making a nuisance of myself with the ol' glass pipe filled with nuggety-nooch. A drunken girl from Boston (who kinda looked like Lili Taylor) saw the smoke and insinuated herself into the proceedings. When I told her my name, she started spazzing out and blathering about the film The Tao of Steve. She must have thought I was

someone important after I snuck her into the lounge, 'cos next thing you know her tongue is down my throat. Mmm, vodka and Red Bull ... Ruby Skye, 420 Mason, S.F. (415) 675-4874.

Some of you may have read about Sno-Drift previously on these pages, and if I'm correct, the word wasn't good. But I like to think of myself as a good, impartial journalist (I also like to think of myself as a cross between Kevin Sorbo and Brendan Fraser, but I digress...), so I went to the barren wasteland of 16th and Third Streets with no axe to grind. This changed quickly, however, as the doorman refused to acknowledge my profound importance as a media mogul and charged me \$10 to get inside. It looked like things were gonna get ugly.

I have to admit, though, I had a good time. If you've a taste for the foofiest of drinks, this is your bar.
Their snow cone drinks are tasty (if a bit impractical), and they serve something called a creamsicle that somehow

Continued on page 12



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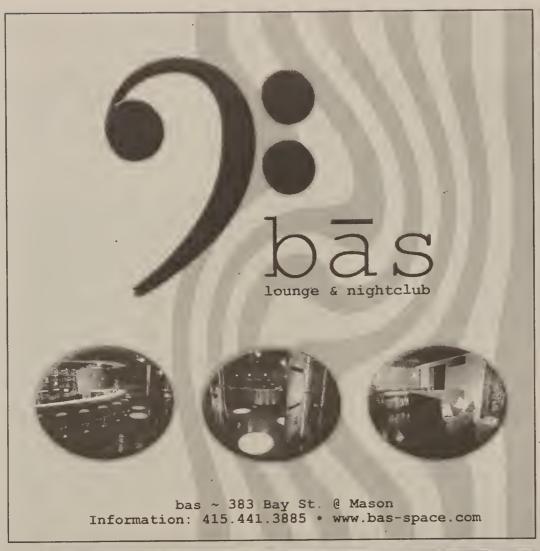
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#### **New bars**

From page 11

floated between the states of liquid and solid. This and a trip to the smoking patio got me 'n' friends Rachel, Rebecca, and "Charles" (not his real name) warmed up for tasty sets by DJ Sep and Cheb I Sabbah.

As we sucked on a doobie outside, I warned my companions of their doom.

"OK, so you all know how this will go down, right?" I said.

"Yeah, we've all seen your stuff before," Rebecca said, nonplussed by the idea.

"Just don't mention my tits, OK?" Rachel said, glaring at me. "I know you did that before with Rina, and I'm not going there."

"But I've already named them," I said. Sno-Drift, 1830 Third St., S.F. (415) 431-4766.

The Circle Club has been hyped as a lesbian bar, but it falls well short of the Lex. When I went, the crowd was as mixed as any crowd, though on weekends the bisexual ante is raised a bit. The jukebox is pretty quality, however, and that holds a lot of sway with me.

I was very annoyed, however, when one of the cute bartenders turned off my (admittedly melancholic) selection of Dire Straits circa *Love over Gold*.

"I just sank five bucks into that thing," I said, trying not to sound like the drunken jackass l was.

"Here ya go." The navel-baring swillfrau tossed a fiver back and turned up some Jay-Z. Ouch. Circle Club, 811 Valencia, S.F. (415) 285-5999.

Jazz purists may find **Butterfly** a bit iffy (the bass player of the band I saw kinda looked like Kid Rock), but its swankiness makes it a good place to impress a date. Hope, our exquisite server, recommended their lemon drop, which made my entire body pucker. They also have an impressive menu of mostly Asian cuisine, served tapas style.

I noticed immediately the neweconomy demographic there and asked my friend, legendary underground publicist and Friscophile Patrick Hughes, if he knew what it had been like five years ago.

"I'm pretty sure it was a friggin' sausage factory," he replied, deadpan. Butterfly, 1710 Mission, S.F. (415) 864-5575.

When Hughes, Jeff Diehl, and I repaired to Laszio later that same evening, we were surprised to find that it was that bar's first fully operational evening. The place was so new, in fact, that all we could smell was lacquer. It was kinda cool, though. I sipped a blood orange and watched as Shoban crooned sweetly over some cool downtempo.

Patrick recognized DJ Consuelo from Butterfly just a few minutes earlier. Was he stalking us or vice versa? He chatted up the natty fellow, whose work we had admired at the Justice League's Thievery Corporation show months earlier. You can also catch Polywog here on Thursdays. Laszlo, 2526 Mission, S.F. (415) 401-0810.

If you're looking to see nude girls spread their legs to show you their plumbing, you should probably avoid **Boys Toys**. This relatively new addition to the North Beach stripclub scene caters to executives and couples and boasts a four-star restaurant on the second floor. It's very well set up (at least a couple mil was dropped on it), and the 3-D laser etching of fetish model Dita Von Teese is money well spent. I'd tell you how the food and drinks were, but alas, they didn't have the good taste to comp me.

Still, the award-winning bartender was friendly enough, and the girls were awfully cute, in a tasteful way. Not that I know much about that. Taste, 1 mean. Boys Toys, 412 Broadway, S.F. (415) 391-2800.

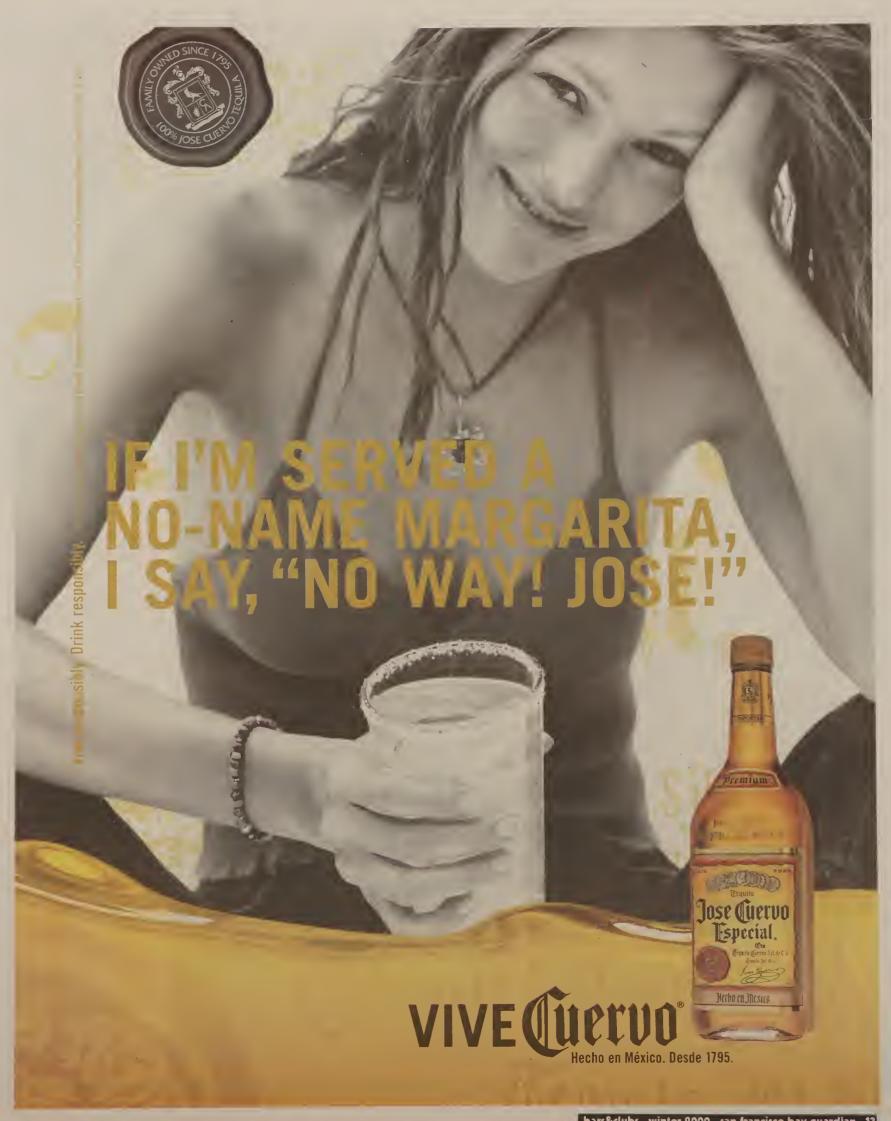
I gotta admit, I was in a funk when I entered **Tongue and Groove** after failing to get a complimentary lap dance at the aforementioned establishment. But then I caught the sounds of Bitches Brew — any band that jams extensively and features somebody on electric piano will pique my interest. I noticed that they kinda sounded like Miles's early-'70s band, but without a trumpet.

Greeting me was T and G's unfathomably gorgeous bar manager, five feet, six inches of pure brunette heaven, with the impossibly cool name of Candida Martinez. "Yeah, that's Bitches Brew," she said, handing me an Absolut Mandarin screwdriver. "Their trumpet player is sick, but they still sound pretty good, don't they?" That they did, but by this time they could have been Gwar, and I wouldn't have noticed.

I interrogated Candida with all the fervor of David Frost grilling Nixon. She emphasized their Jazz II Jungle night on Wednesdays, which features live drum 'n' bass, a rare and cool thing to behold, but I wanted to talk about her, of course. The beguiling 22-year-old did her best to indulge my unnatural interest, but I could tell I had bounded into the Creepy Zone when I asked her to arm wrestle. She laughed nervously and ran away as fast as she could. Tongue and Groove, 2513 Van Ness, S.F. (415) 928-0404.

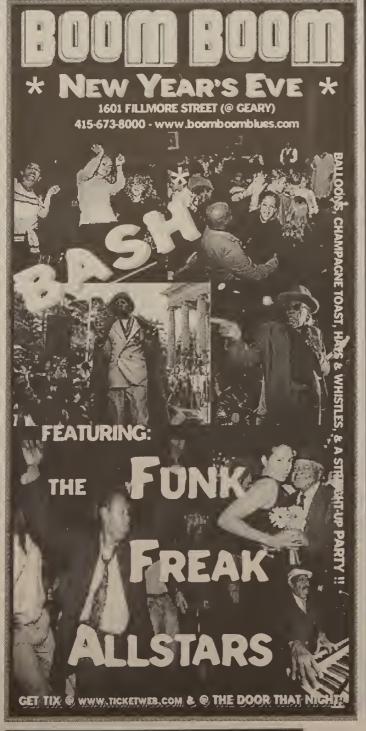
Art mavens Blasthaus have taken the club torch from Rico's Pizza at 78 Minna Street and have launched **Joypad**, which they call a media lounge. Dunno about that, but they've got really cool little machines that run old vid faves Asteroids and Space Invaders. I sat down to play Asteroids and discovered that in the two decades since I'd last played, I hadn't gained any mental acumen — I still sucked.

Still, the map of the galaxy beaming behind the bartender was awfully cool, and I got the feeling that the space definitely had potential. Of course, there were only about 10 people there, but the club hadn't officially opened yet. I'm sure this is destined (doomed?) to be claustrophobically, sweatily popular very soon. Joypad, 78 Minna, S.F. (415) 789-7690. ❖









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### GEUES S



Our house: (Left to right) Ruben Mancias, David Peterson, José Mineros, and David Harness believe house music shouldn't be gay or straight — it's just for dancing.

# No separatism in this house

Four house promoters and DJs on the gay-straight divide. By Amanda Nowinski

beautiful thing happens when house DJs Ruben Mancias and David Harness get up at the Endup on a Sunday afternoon: the crowd dances. And I mean really fucking dances. There's no standing around, nodding heads, or staring down the DJ. The energy and enthusiasm is like nowhere else on earth — and it's probably got a lot to do with the fact that the T-Dance is one of the last truly mixed weekly house parties in town. House, which grew out of the gay scene over 15 years ago, eventually brought in the straight kids - but it was only a matter of time before house went global and, consequently, divided. Is there any remedy for the gay-straight separation?

To get the scoop, we contacted some major players in the gay house scene (and in the house community at large), including DJ David Harness, Ruben Mancias, and Fag Fridays and Substance promoters José Mineros and David Peterson. Peterson launched some of the earliest big house clubs, Product and Rhythm, and in the past few years he and Mineros have raised over \$50,000

dollars — all culled from their events — for charity.

Mancias started playing out in '92 at clubs such as Tilt, Spundae, Cocktails, Pleasuredome, and Anthem and also copromoted a legendary mixed club, Breathe Deep, from '94 to '96. Now he's a resident at Fag Fridays, Faith, and the Sunday T-dance at the Endup. David Harness, who began spinning 10 years ago, is a longtime resident at Universe and the T-Dance, and also runs a weekly, Taboo. Harness played around town in the early days at places like Tilt and the Sound Factory and now regularly spins out of town.

**David Peterson:** Do you remember your first house club?

Ruben Mancias: 1 think it was Love

**DP**: That's the one!

**David Harness:** During that time period it was a lot more open.

**DP:** There wasn't this whole thing — gay vs. straight. My club [Rhythm] was gay, but I didn't want to restrict it to anyone. I'm a gay person, I'm a promoter, but I like to do mixed parties as well.

**RM**: Back then people would go to everything. It wasn't separated; every-

body would go to raves, the after hours, and the gay clubs —

José Mineros: I'm from L.A., and my first club experiences were in gay clubs, but when I came here it was more of a community of people who listen to house.

**DP:** People who loved music. And people used to give outfits back in the day. People used to dress. It was all about the love of the music and the energy at that time. There was camaraderie.

RM: Some of the reasons why I see separatism are because the gay scene has been dominated by the Circuit scene and that the music isn't that underground anymore and that a lot of it doesn't appeal to the straight community anymore. And then to the other extreme, the straight scene has gone in the other direction and doesn't leave room for a mix. A lot of them have become meat markets in [the straight] scene and less focused on the music. That shuts out a lot of the gay community. So on both ends you have it, as opposed to the past, where people were focused on the music and weren't tripping about where they went.

Continued on page 16





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From page 15

**DP:** The whole dynamics of the city have changed. We've all lost a lot of

Bay Guardian: When you decided to name your party Fag Fridays did you

**DP:** Shit for it? Oh, my god. We wanted to do a gay house party, and we decided to call it Fag to take the power out of the word -

JM: Fag!

DP: Yes, so what, honey? I'm a fag! Get the fuck over it.

RM: And when we named it we also really focused on wanting it to be a good, fun party. And fag is just one of those words, where, "Whatever, yeah, I'm a fag." Whatever. This is the truth

to what I am. We took back that power and had fun with it. But a lot of people gave us shit. They said, "Don't you think it's demeaning to you and the rest of the gay community?" It's like - don't be so serious. Don't take yourself so seriously.

**DP:** Same thing with Substance. Our party had nothing to do with drugs. Get your fucking head out of the gutter for a moment. Please. It was just good urban music, hip-hop and house, acid jazz. Just good music.

DH: To me, being a black DJ, a lot of my peers thought I was white. Li'l Louie Vega thought I was a

white guy, and Tony Humphries didn't even know that black kids were carrying on to house on the West Coast. He's from New York and New Jersey, and those clubs were predominantly black. That's where the garage sound comes from. The Zanzibar was a black club -

DP: Zanzibar, girl. I used to have bootlegs from the radio -

**RM:** 97.1, girl. I did too. **DH:** It is pretty white in S.F., but even trying to pull your folks from Oakland — they won't leave Oakland. A lot of the clubs in S.F. aren't for them. That's a little political thing, and I don't want to go there. There were old-school heads that used to carry on at Stanley's after parties in Oakland that was one of my first Bay Area experiences to carry on to music in an environment where it was people of color. It was nothing but niggas and Latins. And it was all gay. It was the spot, from two to six in the morning. I read about house culture in New York and Chicago, and Stanley's was the eye-opener for me. I had already been playing house, but when I went to this club and saw this, people carrying on

with Crystal Waters's "Gypsy Woman," I was like, "Oh, my god."

RM: Did you see that in L.A.? I grew up in L.A. and saw that a lot. I was 14 when I came out of the closet, so I got a fake ID right as soon as I could get one, so I could go and be in a gay environment. And what I heard was that synthesis before house, what I call "cha cha disco," early '80s stuff. Louie Vega was producing the Cover Girls, and there was Lisa Lisa and the Cult Jam — out of that music came the essence of house music through gay clubs.

DP: That was gay dance music back then. Then house arrived.

RM: I saw that at Catch One in L.A.

DH: That was the place!

"Our party had

with drugs. Get

nothing to do

your fucking

of the gutter

for a moment.

urban music."

It was just good

David Peterson

head out

RM: It's a gay black club. Very soulful house. It's hard for people to see how a person could be into early house if

you're from the West Coast. People will ask, "Was it because of the raves?" Not for me; it was through gay disco clubs.

DH: I only know the history from how I started, and I'm a product of the Colossus days. It was kind of an equal mix at a certain point. Back then it wasn't about gay or straight; you were going because you wanted to hear this new kind of music. To me it was flourishing. But going to Oakland, I saw what was going on there, and the kids in Oakland have always been shut out because the parties here have always been so political.

Why pay BART fare to come here when you're only going to be turned away? They won't be turned down in their hometown.

RM: You have that separatism everywhere.

**DH:** And this happened in hip-hop clubs. There are times when I want to go to a hip-hop club, but I don't want to go if I'm going to have my ass kicked. I want to feel comfortable and not have folks gawking at me because I'm gay, dancing with my boy.

**DP:** There's a lot of homophobia in

DH: And it's all about that dollar, If you're gay, and they know it, you don't

JM: Even in Hollywood it's like that. Homo haters, all of them!

BG: What do you think about the Latino house scene?

RM: There is no representation of a Latin house scene in San Francisco. L.A. and New York would be the best representation of that. But here? No.

JM: Being a Latino and being a minority, we've always had to have this political view of ourselves and of what

Continued on page 19



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a hip-hop club.

feel comfortable

but I want to

and not have

folks gawking

I'm dancing

with my boy."

David Harness

at me because

#### Divide

From page 16

we're doing for our community. People gave me flak because I was Latino and questioned if I was serving the needs of my community, like, "Why aren't you doing a Latino party?" And I thought, maybe I should, if I could get Latinos and people who like Latino culture to come. I tried, and it didn't work. There wasn't this sense of com-

mitment like you would have in N.Y., where you have a high concentration of Latinos.

RM: In N.Y. the urban Latinos have been in it since disco. That's where you have a label called Salsoul. I noticed that as soon as the mainstream started recognizing people like Jennifer Lopez and Ricky Martin, I noticed an influx of Latin music in the house scene as well. It was catching on. Even in the pop mainstream you have the Backstreet Boys or whatever they were — 98 Degrees — doing a Latinsounding song.

JM: It's a trend, and in anything that becomes a trend, you see a drop in quality. I heard a

story about India performing at Central Park — and this was when Jennifer had just released her first record — and India said, "Let's not forget who was the first Puerto Rican to do this shit." It's true. Jennifer jumped on the bandwagon, and it was really lucrative, that's fine. But the negative part about a trend is that it's going to be over tomorrow. Just look at Madonna, who's always looking for the next trend.

**DP:** Right now she's ghetto fabulous — she's the queen of trends.

**RM**: How was Madonna's name not going to pop up in a conversation with four queens? [Laughs.] It had to come up, right?

**BG**: Why do you think there's never been a gay jungle party here?

RM: It just seems a little more aggressive. I know for the gay crowd, the vocals move them. The deep sound is what the gay crowd loves. But then again, there's a gay trance scene.

JM: I don't like the progressive trance. It's too hard. But I think a lot of queens like drum 'n' bass.

DH: I love Roni Size and LTJ Bukem. RM: And there are gay hip-hop parties, but not as many here as in N.Y.

JM: As a gay person, I would feel most comfortable going to a Redwine party for hip-hop. But I'm not going to go to one of these parties and be flaunting my homosexuality. I'm going to listen to the music.

**DH:** But then you have the gay kids who are giving you that illusion, where you can't even tell if they're T or not — they're all into their Phat Farm and hats with a rim, looking like they're going to rob you in a minute.

JM: Faith gives that. You know JR? He is a total gay hip-hop DJ, and he plays at the Café —

DH: He turns it -

JM: He's got a following of Asian, Latino, white, and black kids who love

hip-hop.

**DH:** Respect everybody because faggots buy records too.

**OP:** I'll tell you one thing. I like Eminem's stuff, but he's a faggothater. So I'm not going to buy his stuff.

RM: Anybody who is so blatant about it, and puts so much energy into it, is hiding something in themselves.

DH: A lot of these kids coming up in the club scene need to realize that a lot of these DJs that have a big status now started in the gay clubs. That's where they learned their culture and their craft. Faggots got skills.

RM: And props to Ellen Ferrato, who's a resident at Release — that's someone who's consistently played for gay and

lesbian crowds, even the freakier sides, the more artsy sides of the gay scene.

**DH:** Props to her. She did it.

RM: Especially as a woman, where it's a bit harder.

**DH:** You feel her character when she's playing records. She's free and nice and doesn't trip off of anybody's scene. We're just providing music.

I get that respect from the Pirate DJs because they know I'm trying to do the same thing they are, except with house. They play hip-hop and make kids move, and I've never gotten a vibe where they didn't like playing for gay kids. For them, hip-hop is just another music for anyone and everyone. To me, that's cool, that's what it's all about — come by and check it out, get your ass on the floor and dance, 'cause no one cares what you're all about. \*

Fag Fridays. Fridays, 10 p.m.–5:30 a.m., Endup, 401 Sixth St., S.F. (415) 263-4850.

Universe. Saturdays, 10 p.m.-4 a.m., Club Townsend, 177 Townsend, S.F. (415) 289-6650.

**T-Dance.** Sundays, 6 p.m.–2 a.m.; Endup, 401 Sixth St., S.F. (415) 357-0827.

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### In praise of the dive bar

Crawling through the city's libationary underground. By Justine Sharrock

hen I go out for a drink, I look for the trashiest, cheapest, least pretentious place possible. I don't want to deal with waiting on line, fending off cruising men, or shelling out too much for a simple drink. Thankfully, San Francisco is loaded with such places. I refer to the great libationary institution: the dive. Overly romanticized and dramatized in pop culture and literature, the dive is the down-and-out den where just about anything can happen. Think Moe's of The Simpsons; think the watering holes of Bukowski. What the hell, even think of the Girl Scout-infested club in Airplane. The dive is a place where one can submerge, or dive, into the world of debauchery, and escape. Dives are places where it seems like anything could happen, even if it rarely ever does.

Disreputable saloons and gambling joints were called "dives" (also known as "dens," "holes," and "dumps") in the mid 1800s because they were often located below street level, in the ground floors or even basements of once-genteel row houses in run-down areas of the city. Patrons entered the dive by going down a flight of stairs and once inside, were safely shielded from the gaze of more respectable citizens.

Despite the fact that they are no

longer literally underground, San Francisco's dives pretty much still meet this description. Sure, during the Barbary Coast's wildest days things may have been hairier, but there is still some thing to say for our dens of squalor. Of course, sometimes the "slumming it" mind-set attracts too many yuppies, thus ruining any good dive. Think of 16th Street, which is turning into a cell phone-ridden meat market. Certain drinkers, myself included, live in fear of losing their dive bars to bourgeois hordes.

When I told people that I was writing a piece about dive bars, they expressed a mix of enthusiasm and fear. While these friends share a strong appreciation of trashy bars, they worry that their favorite dive bars will not survive San Francisco's recent explosion of wealth and population. The dive bars' doors may stay open, and business may boom. but the atmosphere, the locals, and the cheap prices may disappear. Dive lovers fear that further advertisement in the Bay Guardian might accelerate this process in their favorite "hidden" spots.

Well, rest assured: I could never name every good dive in this town without writing a tome.

San Francisco is so inundated with good dives, thanks to its torrid and steamy history (think gold rush and

brothels), that it's unlikely we will lose them all. And yet this may have been the tune sung years ago about the artists' and musicians' spaces in this town. Dive bars could be next in the line of yuppie fire.

When I first moved to my neighborhood, it took me some time to find my place. I didn't want some yupster (young hipster) or yuppie spot, but somewhere I could feel comfortable. One morning, on my trip to the hardware store, I found it. There were several old men outside having a smoke, taking a break from their drinking, at 10 a.m. Sunday morning. It looked unpretentious, weathered, and trashy. It looked like my kind of dive. When I finally went in for a drink, I was smitten. The bartender had a thick Irish accent, plenty of anecdotes, and a heavy hand when pouring drinks. The drinks were strong and cheap. The crowd was pleasant but in an unobtrusive way. When the grayhaired bartender started singing his favorite punk songs from the juke box, I knew I had found a home. Sorry - I won't tell you its name.

There is a certain strategy to finding a dive. For starters, do not look in any areas overrun by the types of people you are trying to avoid: tourists, businesspeople, or personal enemies. The 7-11 Club in San Francisco's downtown is the one odd exception. In general, looking in the outskirts of neighborhoods is usually key. The dive will be in a part of town that is busy but not overrun with prime real estate. For example, there are several dives along the strip of San Pablo Avenue past University Avenue in Berkeley and in the Outer Mission. Or look in places where there have always been people enthusiastic about their drink: near old factories or by the Bay Area docks. For example, Merchant's, near the Oakland docks, has been around since the old days to quench sailors' thirst. Legend has it that the curved tiling under the bar stools allowed sailors to get their drunk without wasting time by getting up to use the urinal. Good dives are also found wherever you would not expect to look. Take for example, The Philosopher's Club. So keep an eve out.

It would almost be counterproductive to offer you a list of the good dives, since that would be working against what made them good dives in the first place. Instead I offer an in-depth look at, and celebration of, how to find a good dive, and a guide to how to recognize the real thing from the I-Can't-Believe-It's-Not-Butter imitation when it falls in your lap.

The first tell-all sign in recognizing a dive may be in the name. Dive bars don't have cute, punny names. There will be no trendy themes: drinking, after all, is the theme. A dive often will have a name with a street address (such as the 3300 Club) or a person's name (such as Cliff's). Short, simple, and sweet.

#### Cheap and trashy

The most important part of a dive bar is price. If you are paying three bucks for that bottle of beer, you are not in a dive. You may be in a yuppie-appropriated or Continued on page 23



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### BARS & GLUBS

#### Dive

From page 21

knockoff imitation, but it is not the real thing. Bohos have a need for divey flourishes in their bars, while clinging to their crowds and fancy drink concoctions, but they tend to bring their prices along. There's no point in paying a high price for a drink when there are so many fine establishments that won't rip you off.

Similarly, there is no need for a dive to be spruced up in terms of furnishings. As your eyes adjust to the dim lighting inside the bar, you expect to find the basics: lit-up signs for cheap beer, a wooden bar, maybe vinyl booths, and of course the giant mirror.

These mainstays allow you to feel safe and comfortable, yet each bar has its own quirky twist to keep you guessing and entertained in a very laid-back sort of way. Dives are usually jampacked with gadgets and debris that the bartenders have collected over the years: pictures of random but much loved celebrities such as Tom Selleck or Rocky, pornographic beer mugs, old Christmas decorations, LP covers, and postcards. There is an obvious history to the place, which you can glimpse by just looking around.

#### Strong, knock-you-onvour-ass drinks

If you are at a place where you have to order a double just to be able to taste the liquor, move on. Certain dives, such as Albany's Hotsy Totsy, serve drinks that will knock you off your bar stool, literally. This tends to accelerate the evening, often to a dangerous speed, but at least you're getting a bang for your buck. Certain bars also use fairly high-quality brands for their well — this being the icing on the cake for a dive of choice, but not a prerequisite.

#### The barkeep

There are bars I frequent for the sole reason of visiting the bartender. Mike and Mary's, in Berkeley, is one that stands out in my mind. The bartender, coincidentally named Mary, is the right combination of kick-ass and maternally sweet. She will show you her vegetable garden out back, share invaluable advice, and generally go out of her way to make sure you are doing OK. Yet she stands her own ground, tells bawdy jokes, and has an infectious laugh. Dives are small enough, intimate enough, and empty enough to make the bartender's personality affect the demeanor of the place. Plus, he or she is the one pouring your drinks.

#### Solitary drinking vs. local entertainment

A dive bar should be pretty much empty. Yes, there should be the few old men at the end of the bar, their heads stooped over their drinks, making small talk with the barkeep, who knows just how they like their drinks. But these guys will respectfully leave you alone. They are there for the same reason: to have a few moments' peace and quiet with their drinks. I am not much for

solitary drinking, but I respect that for some it has its time and its place. Sometimes you just need a rest. When I go to a bar, I need some quiet intimacy to share a moment with a friend and not be bombarded and harassed by jocks and marauders. I also dislike crowds. I go to the bar to have a drink, not to stand five feet from the bar, trying to grab the attention of the bartender and screaming my order. I want to sit down, not balance my drink praying no one will knock into me and spill my drink in my face.

On the other hand, the local clientele can often add to a place. Sometimes you need someone to listen to your tales of woe, or play you in a game of pool, or buy you a drink. Fellow scoundrels and riffraff can be somewhat entertaining. Barroom spectator sports, such as eavesdropping, improve exponentially the more eccentric and unstable the other drinkers are.

#### No yuppies (or jocks or bobos, for that matter)

I don't find yuppies relaxing. Nor do I find them amusing, entertaining, or even something I want to ponder in an abstract theoretical way leaning over a drink. No, in fact, when I am nursing my drink, yuppies are something I want to avoid. Talking on a cell phone, assuming the place is a meat market, or ordering a vodka with Red Bull are all highly unacceptable examples of bar etiquette, in my opinion.

Yuppies ruin the atmosphere. First of all, they could turn my mood into melancholy thinking about the downfall of my neighborhood, friends, and generation. They may snobbishly laugh and scorn me if I do something clumsy, unrefined, or just drunken. More simply, they may not offer me the great camaraderie necessary for a memorable night of drinking.

#### Jukebox

Although there is some dispute in this arena, the jukebox in a dive bar should rarely stray from the classic bar music. By classic, I mean those songs that you love but only listen to in a bar. Greats such as CCR come to be associated with drinking for no other fact than that a bar is the only place people will pay to have them played. There are some exceptions, as there are with most rules. For example, I am inclined toward any dive that has a good selection of punk rock. On the other hand, anywhere that plays techno is not a dive. This is attested to by Dalva's hordes of cell phone toters packed in like Japanese businessmen on the underground.

Even if you are wedded to your current favorite dive or the concept of a dive is alien to you, it's always a good idea to be on the lookout for a new haunt. Whether you're running from the yuppies or are one yourself, sometimes you need a place to get a strong, cheap drink. We all need somewhere to get smashed and make a fool of ourselves without anyone giving us a hard time. It's time to find a place where you can escape into the world of debauchery and let loose. ❖

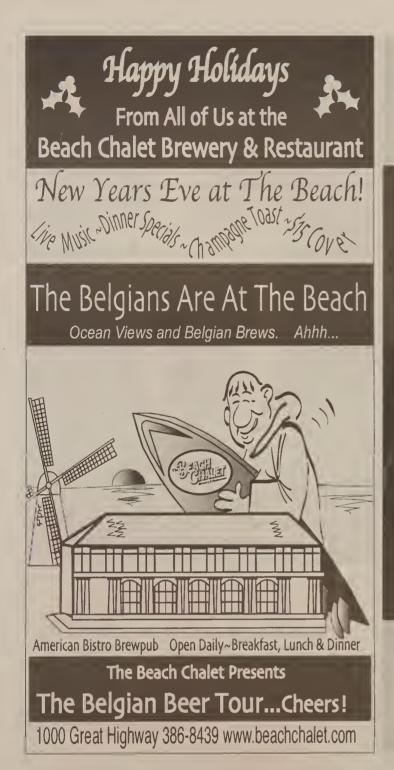






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### GEUES S



Gender benders: Cud Club promoters Nurse Leila (Rhani Remedes) and Dr. Ruffskin (Morty Diamond) dress up as each other for Identity Crisis night.

### CoCo no more

#### The end of a queer era? By Alissa Chadburn

ehind a bright red door off
Minna Street and down some
creaky metal stairs, queers from
all corners of the city congregated in our own underground
world. At the CoCo Club, one of the
few dyke bars in the city, this world
was created by and for the queers
— and we weren't queer just in the
same sex—loving sense of the word,
but in the sense of freakish, outcast,
struggling, political, working-class,
artistic, and activist. But Nov. 30, after
a six-month legal battle, the CoCo
Club was forced to close.

Just a month ago, on Thursday, Nov. 9, the party wasn't over yet. The Cud Club, a monthly queer dance event at the CoCo, held its last night of "boozin', cruisin' and genderfuckin." As usual, the revolers were of varying sexes, genders, and guises. A tranny in a miniskirt and ripped fishnets and a femme in a Saran Wrap skirt and matching clearplastic heels were getting freaky on the dance floor. A girly girl in a tie was sweating so much that her glued-on mustache clung to one side of her mouth. A faggy boy and an equally faggy dyke cruised each other. Bartender JoAnne Arnold hopped on the counter and writhed on her knees as if possessed by Quiet Riot's cover version of "Cum on Feel the Noize." A couple of fresh-faced baby dykes wandered into the club and found a corner to dance in. (By the end of the night, they were heartily making out.)

A motley crew, but all with something in common: we queers just wanna have fun. And if this was the end, why not have one last good time?

As part of the club's regular performance art-contest portion of the evening, the promoters staged a funeral procession of Cud Club regulars dressed in white, with ghastly painted faces. Morty Diamond, a.k.a. Dr. Ruffskin, and Rhani Remedes, a.k.a. Nurse Leila, threw fake blood on the participants, who fell to the floor in mock death. Diamond called up willing members of the audience to tackle homemade piñatas. The last piñata sent dildos of various shapes and sizes flying across the stage; the dead quickly revived and scrambled for the goods. The abundant dildos, the usual prize for the Cud's contests, were a minor consolation for the death of the club. The music started up again and hard, steamy dancing resumed.

Hours later we spilled out of the hot subterranean club and sat on the dirty sidewalk. We didn't care this time if the upstairs neighbor complained. It was over anyway. Across the alley, almost an entire lot lay barren, robbed of its former warehouses and dilapidated old buildings. Probably going to be more lofts, we agreed. Across Eighth Street, another tower of recently erected lofts loomed over us.

The wave of evictions sweeping the city has hit young and working-class queers hard. With the demise of the CoCo Club, one of the few spaces left

that truly supported queer arts culture, this little corner of South of Market is fading away, ushering in a new era of lofts and fancy restaurants and neighbors who don't want to hear the noise of queers having fun together.

For days after that last Cud Club night, the refrain of the song we had rocked out to played over and over in my head: Where do we go now?

#### **CoCo forced to close**

The CoCo's problems started about six months ago when upstairs neighbor Michael Koppy began waging a campaign to close the club. "He started bringing attention to us. Before we knew it, he was calling the police all the time," former CoCo Club owner Trish Moran said.

A 22-year resident of the building that houses the club, Koppy investigated the CoCo's legal status and discovered that the club did not have the proper permits for live music and DJs. "Once I found out she was not legal, I thought, I'm not going to put up with it anymore. She messed with the wrong guy," he said. The CoCo's entertainment license, which Moran had taken over from the owner of Spike's (the establishment that preceded the CoCo in that space), permitted "non-amplified music." Moran said she did not realize she was violating the permit and added that "it had never been an issue" until the complaints skyrocketed. When she took

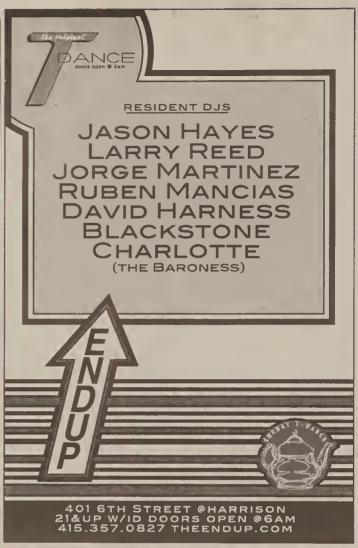
Continued on page 27











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#### CoCo

From page 25

over the bar, she said, "All I knew was that [Spike's] had live bands and DJs, so I thought I could too."

In an effort to address any potential problems, Moran sent two letters to her neighbors: one when the CoCo started having DJ dance nights about four years ago, and another when they began booking live bands a little more than a year ago. "I just wanted to let people know who we are, what we did, why we were there," she said of both letters. "To let them know to contact me directly if they have any problems, and we can try to resolve

them, so we can all be in the neighborhood together." According to Moran, no one, including Koppy, ever responded to the letters, so she assumed that no one had a problem with the club. When I asked Koppy if he had ever contacted Moran with his complaints he said, "No, because I presumed she was operating legally." He added, "It's not our job to fit to her. It's her job to fit into our neighborhood. She never had any intention of doing that."

When Koppy took his complaints directly to the police, Moran said, "I tried

to contact him, to see what we could do, but he would never meet with me." Moran said that even after the CoCo stopped hosting live bands, in mid April, he continued on what seemed like "a mission to shut us down." Koppy sent out a letter of his own, asking the neighbors to band together against the club. While Koppy said that many of the neighbors supported him, according to Arnold and Moran the common reaction was, as Moran said, "What are you talking about? We moved in above a club."

A longtime music industry professional himself, Koppy stressed that he is not against the South of Market bar and club scene, nor is he some dotcom newcomer out to cause trouble. He also maintains that the fact that the CoCo was a queer bar "had nothing to do with it." He said, "I have been accused of being antilesbian or something, but that just isn't the deal. I work with gay and lesbian people all the time."

However, for some of the patrons and promoters, Koppy's complaints seemed particularly targeted against them as queers. Sarah Kennedy, a Cud Club DJ and copromoter, with Jessica S., of the queer dance night Detention, said that because Koppy consistently complained on what she called

the "queerest nights," it led her to believe he was motivated, at least in part, by homophobia.

Whether or not the clientele was a factor in his complaints, Koppy's feelings toward Moran are clear. "This woman, this slimeball, had the absolute arrogance to take advantage of the neighborhood for her own financial gain," he said. Describing Moran as an "amateur," he said, "It's people like her that give the entertainment industry a bad name." He added, "She thought she could get away with ripping us off. Now she's getting her comeuppance." Responding to the allegations, Moran said, "If he only knew what a challenge it has been to

keep the club open. There were many times I thought we would have to close." Arnold said, "[Moran] opened this place for the community. She didn't make any money off of it.

She just wanted to have it there for the community."

After the complaints and the expensive legal battle that ensued, Moran was forced to close up shop. Sadly realizing that "there was no way to continue

up shop. Sadly realizing that "there was no way to continue doing what we had been doing," Moran sold the club to Roman Slepica, the new owner of Buzz 9, the restaurant upstairs. Slepica said

he "hasn't finalized

any plans" for the space, except that it will likely be incorporated into the restaurant.

Rocker grrrl: Delphine Brody

gets down at the Cud Club.

The final blow to Moran came on Nov. 30, the CoCo's last night and the night of its final live-band show. Shortly after the first band went on, Koppy called the police. Though Koppy claimed he didn't know it was the closing night, he said, "Even if I had known, I would've shut them down anyway."

#### A place where queers could thrive

Seeing a lack of spaces for queer artists to perform, Moran said, "I wanted women to have a place to go and have entertainment and be comfortable." When she worked at Spike's, she started a women's night called Comme Nous (as in Est-elle comme nous? Is she like us?), a speakeasy cabaret in the tradition of a Parisian nightclub. It was fitting for the intimate space, which in the early 1930s had been an underground speakeasy. When Moran took over the bar and reopened the space as the CoCo Club in 1994, she began recruiting queer performers for her new venue.

Over the next seven years, an eclectic group of fledgling queer artists,

Continued on page 28











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### BARS & CLUES

#### CoCo

From page 27

promoters, and performers tried out their talents and developed their shows on the Coco's small stage. After MCing a Good Vibrations benefit at the CoCo, Karlyn Lotney got the idea to start her steamy erotic cabaret, "In Bed with Fairy Butch." Michelle Tea, codirector of Sister Spit, the all-girl queer spoken word performance troupe, says that Sister Spit's open mic series "really took off" when they were invited to bring their event to the club. Before that, Sister Spit had been struggling with various bars on Valencia Street, places that had once been friendly to the queer arts scene but had either changed hands or begun to court a new influx of more moneyed bargoers. "It was hard to find a place that didn't care about . having a queer night or a poetry night, and then the CoCo Club brought us in and really valued the community that had formed around our weekly show," Tea reminisces. "It really felt like a wonderful family."

#### Where do we go now?

For the many promoters and performers who have taken root at the CoCo, the loss of the club has left them searching for a new venue. Diamond will be hosting a bimonthly tranny-positive club night at the Paradise Lounge. Lotney hopes to find a larger venue for "In Bed with Fairy Butch," but no space has been found yet. Sister Spit is on hiatus, but Tea and codirector Sini Andersen will host spoken word events around town wherever they are welcome. Moran is optimistic that most of the promoters she has worked with will find new spaces. "At the CoCo, they built their crowds, and a lot can go to other venues. They have experience now to do that," she said.

But for the queer artists, especially the less established ones, venues that can and will host them are harder to find. An additional problem is that queers, according to Tea and Kennedy, face another challenge from within the lesbian community: a growing economic divide. Kennedy says that at the few dyke bars and

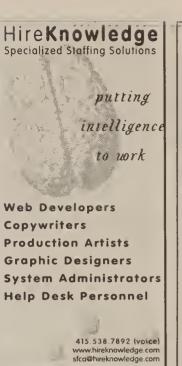


Chew the cud: Dr. Ruffskin takes a licking to "Betty the badass bisexual" while Nurse Leila looks on.

Though Moran had intended the CoCo to be strictly a women's space, she soon found that in order to support the bar she would have to branch out. "It was always very hard for us to be a dyke space," said former CoCo bartender and manager Lauren Britowich. "The dykes would complain that there were no spaces for them, but when it was strictly a dyke bar, they just didn't come." Moran said expanding the clientele meant they could continue to "have the Fairy Butches and the Sister Spits" and support the queer community. The mostly straight nights, such as the popular Saturday-night lounge Lush, "really kept the bar alive," Britowich said. Even though the crowds became more mixed, the CoCo earned the reputation of being one of two full-time dyke bars in the city (the Lexington Club is the other). Claire Walsh, a regular patron of the club, said of the welcoming atmosphere, "I can honestly say I have never felt more safe and comfortable anywhere as a dyke as I have at the CoCo. It really felt like our space."

clubs that remain, signs of gentrification are beginning to show and working-class queers are feeling the pressure. Tea said that the changing makeup of the lesbian community is shifting the group's priorities. "There is a new influx of dykes who are more concerned with their careers and making money. When I came [to San Francisco], people were moving here to make art and do activism."

Kennedy is confident that "things will come back around" but said, "We gotta keep fighting to take back the city." In the meantime, the existing queer culture may be forced even further underground than the basement of the CoCo. Tea sees the loss of the CoCo as a defining moment: "If San Francisco was in a better place, if it was more supportive of the arts community, there would still be other places to turn to. It would still be sad to lose the CoCo Club, but it wouldn't make everyone feel so desperate because there'd be other places to go. Right now, the city feels like it's dying, and this feels really huge." 💠





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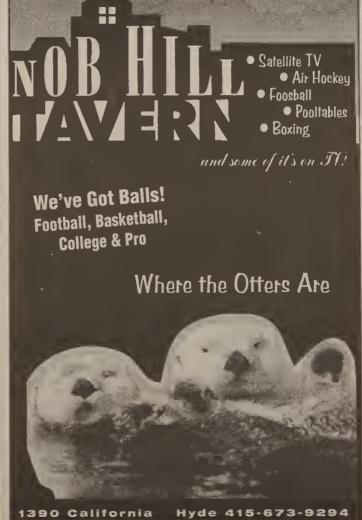


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#### **Call and Response**

Kicks 2 Dec. 2

Call and Response (CAR) could very well be the band that saves the Bay Area music scene. Not from greedy rehearsal-space slumlords or from corporate-whoring cover bands, but from local indie rock fans who pay money to attend shows and then stand around getting bored. For those who caught the quintet's Dec. 2 performance at Kicks 2 (Oakland's new venue already infamous for playing host to a plethora of dated post-grunge bands), it was impossible to watch them while maintaining the familiar unsmiling, foldedarms posture.

The East Bay pop sophisticates took the stage and played music that was so saturated in California sunshine that you had no choice but to surrender, smile, and dig. People laughed and moved because the songs were exquisite and the band's amazing, honest chemistry generated an amazing live sound. Somehow CAR are able to draw inspiration and influence from bands as far-flung as the Free Design, Kool and the Gang, the Sea and Cake, the Ohio Express, and Stereolab, as well as the soundtrack to Breakin' — filtering it all through their own trademark bubbling groove.

What first stood out were the three women — each individually stunning and talented: Terri Loewenthal is an elegantly rocking, bell-bottomed, backup-singing, strut-heavy bass player. Saturday found her neck-walking her flatwound-strung '68 Fender Jazz bass like the funkified daughter of Carol Kaye. Símone Rubi is the shag-cut, smiling keyboard player who played an avocado green Wurlitzer and Moog-approximating Roland. She also shared singing duties with a second keyboard player, Carrie Clough, a dead ringer for a young Judy Garland, who was banging an old analog Yamaha. The charismatic, naturally confident Clough has a

voice that once moved Kinetics front man Bart Davenport to describe her as "the female Nick Drake" - although her silk-textured voice, hypnotizing and pensive at times, is actually much more dynamic and elastic than Drake's was. On Saturday night, with all three women singing, songs like the celestial "California Floating in Space" (a West Coast pop anthem sweet enough to make Brian Wilson cry) made you feel warm summer love in the wintertime

Dan Judd and Jordan Dalrymple played guitar and drums, respectively, and both added vocals. Judd was a cool and collected stage presence throughout - were it not for his breathy vocals and unique guitar playing, Loewenthal, Clough, and Rubi might have upstaged

him. The dexterous guitar player squeezed vintage tones into tight grooves and soulful runs on the fret board that got the moneymakers shaking like a house party at Hef's man-

sion. Com-

bined with the eclectic drum stylings of Dalrymple (the man can effortlessly traverse from lavish postrock beats

to old-

school hip-

hop breaks

in a wink), CAR unveiled a sonic party that will be available on a selftitled debut for Kindercore Records in late January. The romantic, swooning crescendos in "Nightflight" had Rubi lovingly serenading an audience that seemed to inhale her every word. Judd stepped up to whisper boyish melodies on "Stars Have Eyes," a song well worthy of inclusion on a mix tape for the one you love. Although many of the young, grin-

ning showgoers were hearing those hook-laden ditties for the first time, they crowded the floor of a new and unfamiliar venue, proving once again that you can have a successful party

almost anywhere as long as there's a good soundtrack. Call and Response open for Mover (Eric Shea plays guitar and sings in Mover) and the Kinetics on New Year's Eve, Cafe du Nord, S.F. (415) 861-5016. (Eric Shea)

Pop saviors: East Bay band Call and Response play music saturated in California sunshine.

#### California Oranges

California Oranges (Darla)

Power pop. Once almost exclusively the domain of skinny ties, Rickenbacker guitars, and wide-eyed lyricism, it has become a generic catchphrase to explain everyone from Matthew Sweet to the Posies to the Rembrandts. If it's melodic, it's in the club, and that's fine with us. So why is the debut disc from the California Oranges such a bombshell to our senses? The vocals are thin, the production is marginal at points, and the turf they trod on has been covered an endless number of times by better bands. Yet, there they are — stuck in our brainpan like some lost artifact to all that's right with music. Great power pop never had a problem with making a complete ass of itself over unrequited love, and the Oranges hammer that nail repeatedly to our forehead with the opener, "John Hughes" (which could very well pass itself off as a Sixteen Candles soundtrack remnant), the aces Chris Stamey-styled "Been There, Done That," and the airy "Cross My Heart." They go coy on "So Much to Do" and "Olivia" (as in Newton John) and still manage to come out looking earnest in the end. And that's their charm. Like running under the sprinkler and scabbed knees, the California Oranges are a wonderful reminder of the simpler pleasures. (John O'Neill)

#### Me First

Sorry Hangover (Sympathy for the Record Industry)

Led by songwriter-singer-quitarist Denise Campanaro, Me First have spent their career residing in that famous shadow zone between the two poles of underground respectability: namely, being too pop for the punk crowd and being too slick for the neogarage dorks. Instead they rattle on, two guys, two gals, and three chords, fulfilling a simple game plan of loud guitars, yummy melodies, and two-part harmonies. On their third long player, Me First recall both the Pandoras' better moments and the Friggs, without the tough gal bluster. Opening with the bubblegum punk of "Chase My Tail," Campanaro takes the gang down the triedand-true path of old-school buzz-saw sonics, mixing up fuckthe-world lyrics and sentimentality, with a healthy dollop of deadpan humor. And, while they aren't mining any new territory, there's something to be said for doing what you believe in the right way. There are a few close calls - midtempo rockers like "Compartment" and "Harrowing Feeling" stray close to smashing up on the same rocks the Bangles hit in '85, - but in general Sorry Hangover runs a straight, no-frills course. When the band are at their strongest, kicking up a small fury on numbers like "She Drove a Tempest" and "Loud in Ohio," they hit hard, but with an open hand. That way there's no bruising. (O'Neill)

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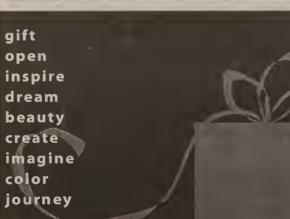


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#### **Apocalypse** whenever

nd that's when it got a little strange that's what we'll say in the history books. The votes split down the center, marking the intersection of the unbelievable and the inevitable. Everyone went inside and turned on the TV, the radio, the oven, and the bedroom lights. The candidates went into their castles too, and pretty soon sent out demands for a recount. Calendar pages filled the canyons of downtown, and the next year rolled away in the tallying and retallying of a populace's tentative stabs at political process. The numbers ran down our screens like a symmetrical dream. Everything stayed in place.

Stasis affected the flow of commerce. We ran out of paper. The water supply drained away. The voices on the radio faded, and we wandered the dial for a while, until the static overtook us. The same headlines loomed on every street corner, until people started running out of fuel.

Angry souls went out in the street to argue with statues and other monuments of state. We stayed home and played records until the power went out. Then we sat in the dark and tried to remember the songs that had inhabited our lives in the past. It was

like going over memories, tender and lovely. It gave us something interior to think about in place of the crisis.

There was the plangent drone of Glue's "Times Square," which had gotten us through the rainy winters that followed the drought, and Eleventh Dream Day's "Between Here and There," our highway driving song. We sang Neutral Milk Hotel's Aeroplane over the Sea from track to track, and "Summer Babe" from the year Pavement broke. There was Grandaddy's "Why Would I Want to Die," like a love song you heard from too far underwater to care about resurfacing, and anything by the For Carnation, a low voice in a basement somewhere, singing to itself.

One day we tried to remember the words to "Ulrike," from before everybody danced to Chumbawamba on MTV, but its championing of political explosions made us feel guilty. We thought about the world outside our window, the world inside what was once our TV. We leaned against the wall and thought about the Wedding Present. We lay down and heard Palace songs. We closed our eyes and dreamed of Slowdive

We needed fullabies and love songs, as it turned out, in place of resolutions, which we couldn't keep track of during this drab, still disaster. We sang Unwound and Archers of Loaf if we needed to, and stomped around our bedrooms. That was our protest.

People told us to wake up; they asked us to come outside. And indeed we felt a little lonesome, but we didn't want to talk to strangers whose problems resembled our own. We wanted our households, our indoor campfire circles, songs so personal they entered the realm of the incomprehensible, where we felt we belonged. We wanted broken voices to touch on our private sorrows through pitch and intonation, songs in which people walked away or promised to come home. The folk anthems, with their firmly articulated requests, were not potent; they were so filled with clarity they didn't seem true. We chose atmosphere instead, music that threw a shadow down over our faces, allowing us to misunderstand the contours of the events at hand.

That's what we'll say for the record, though the spin is making me dizzy. I almost wish I could lose it like Ulrike Meinhof herself, ganging up on the bankers and turning guns into loot, but the money's gone out of the country somewhere, and all I can manage is a little Johnny Rotten, breaking things against walls, lifting up pieces of furniture and watching them drop. Now I have one less plate to eat my dinner on. My downstairs neighbors would complain, but they're out voting in the streets. And I would join them, I really would, but I'm waiting for the power to come back on, thinking about what I will play when it does. \*



by jeff chang

#### **Crossroads**

ust a few years ago, the junkanoo band had been on the verge of Ubreaking up after plugging away for two decades. Now, with "Who Let the Dogs Out," the Baha Men have a monster - two million sold and still climbing. The song itself is a version. Soca singer Anselm Douglas penned the song for Trinidad's 1998 carnival. When the Baha Men moved to a new American label later that year, the label head convinced them to do a new version. With the addition of three new hot boys, all younger than the band itself, they were ready to hot it. Adding Bahamian cowbells and goatskin drums, as well as a nasty 808 drop, they created the biggest Caribbean export since Bob Marley's "Jamming."

Leveraged in perfect synergy across media platforms — rocked in stadiums and arenas from here to Seattle to Queens, hawked on Honda commercials, Nickelodeon, and in theaters with the Rugrats — the song has conquered American consciousness. But the band hasn't. Although they've performed at the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade, on Saturday Night Live, and at the World Series, and they're now on tour with 'N Sync, the Bahamian crew are probably the most anonymous multiplatinum group in recent memory. Are they junkanoo's greatest crossover hope or a one-hit wonder?

In the meantime, south across the Caribbean Sea, long past the mix of expectant glee and impending despair that comes with crossover success, Jamaica's dancehall producers continue to crank out the singles like there's no tomorrow. And with budgets expiring and sales goals looming on the end of the year, the compilations are coming in a crush.

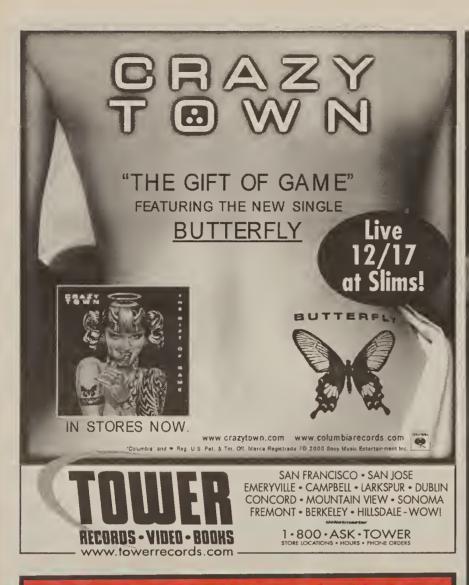
Greensleeves Records alone is deliv-

ering no less than five. The first is The Biggest Ragga Dancehall Anthems 2000, a two-CD set that better than any other comp captures the scene's obsessions and micromovements. The other four ride a riddim format. Stone Cold's "Highway" boasts great performances from Capleton and others, but the derivative groove fails to catch. Jeremy "Who Am 1" Harding turns in Lightning, a wonderful, stringwise Missy infatuation, with uneven vocal performances. Latino/Boasy Gal works two riddims, the former a version of Jennifer Lopez's "If You Had My Love." Then there's "Jamaica's National Anthem," Punanny, the 1986 riddim that made a comeback this year with the remix of Sean Paul and Mr. Vegas's "Hot Gal Today." Divided into sides of "classic Punanny" and "virgin Punanny," the album is both proof of the slack revival and evidence for the growing chorus of nostalgists who mutter that dancehall has produced nothing of note in recent years.

The riddim that says they're wrong is Dave Kelly's "Bounce" - a gurgling, stuttering, mathematically intensifying riddim that out-Freshes Mannie and crushes its competition. Kelly, who created the template for 21st century dancehall with early '90s riddims like "Bogle," "Arab Attack," and "Pepperseed," has recently been obsessed with dragging ragga into the next century. His work on Bay Cham's Wow ... The Story located the missing links between bleeding-edge hip-hop and techno in the Jamaican dancehall. Bounce Megamix (Platinum Distribution) - mixed like a live in-studio session with high-grade mic turns from Cham, Beenie Man, Frankie Sly, and Chico — is a sign that the continuing convergence need not give an inch of yardcore.

It's been a great year for lover's rock too, as evidenced by Strictly the Best 26 (VP Records), the finest of its series in years. Led off by Junior Kelly's estimable "Love So Nice," it also features man-child falsettoist Ghost, Freddie MacGregor, Half Pint, and a Wayne Wonder and Buju Banton reunion. While old schoolers and classic riddims dominate, there is also Singing Melody's stunning "Say What," a register-leaping performance so thoroughly original it could last beyond the eye-blink pop moment. After all, in the end, it's easier to cross over than to achieve immortality. .









ETTA JAMES



### Nineteen

ow do you explain how much goddamn fun it is to be 19? The whirlwind suburban thrill of slam-dancing in the aisles of the Circle Star Theater as the performers got dizzy on a nauseating, slowly rotating center stage? The subversive rush of stealing backstage right behind the security guards to let your roommate back in the venue after he's been tossed out for a failed stage dive? (What recklessness makes you disclose that he's now a prominent local TV news anchor?) How do you account for your silly, critically unexamined belief that funk is a universal balm: race healer, class unifier, social salvation?

Two words: Trouble Funk. That virgin night of Trouble Funk — opening for the hopelessly outclassed Untouchables and Fishbone, in Mountain View, in the ridiculous brown, round venue (now demolished) suited more for

Helen Reddy Christmas carols than for fired-up multikulti teens - explains it all. And one more word: Hoooooooo-whee!

They traveled thick, 15 strong, in black on black: black cut-off shirts, black leather vests, black Levis, black Kangols, black Reeboks. They rocked two drummers and three percussionists. They played every hornstab, every conga solo, every drum fill with an engineer's mathematical precision. They played for hours at top volume in lockstep rhythmic virtuosity. They couldn't stop, and they wouldn't stop. They made you do crazy shit.



Of all the mighty and great D.C. go-go bands, Trouble Funk was the mightiest and the greatest. Not because they seemed to work from a bottomless reserve of genius and verve, but because they understood that it was always less about them than about shining the spotlight on the collective You. Venerable Chuck Brown was prone to flights of solo jazz fancy. Other bands wanted to be DeBarge. And many of the new generation go-go crews, locked again in the mid-Atlantic club and black-college circuit, acted like they'd rather be rap stars. But T-Funk was all about shake that thang, you got to shake that thang, everybody get small, hit 'em with the super grit till early, so early in the morning.

Even as the band was striking up a cross-district alliance with the punk scene — a legacy that can be felt in the raw power of Backyard, the most promising new-gen go-go outfit - corporate hands never knew what to do with this raw, radioactive material. After Island Records honcho Chris Blackwell failed to turn go-go into the '80s equivalent of reggae, Trouble Funk took what cofounder Robert Reed now refers to as a "hiatus." Reed's brother, Taylor, left town to become a doctor. Percussionist Mack Carey passed away. Go-go's backbeat was bequeathed to hip-hop producers and turntablists as sample fodder and battle ammo. In what seemed to be a final insult, Trouble Funk's essential sides, curated by Rick Rubin and Henry Rollins on two releases, Early Singles and Live, fell out of print when Rubin sold his label to Sony.

But, according to Reed, the plan was always to put the band back together in 2000. A British greatest hits compilation, Droppin' Bombs' (Harmless), came out a year and a half ago. Then earlier this year, a live set, All the Way Live, quietly surfaced and quickly sold out at mid-Atlantic record shops. Tuff City Records has now reissued six of the early sides on E Flat Boogie (vinylnow, CD in 2001) and will soon release Cold Millennium, a greatest hits package with seven new tracks, and Funk Classics, featuring go-gofied versions of "Cut the Cake," "Dance to the Drummer's Beat," and "The Devil Went Down to Georgia." They will also rerelease All the Way Live on vinyl and CD.

Live, taken from a 1984 D.C. show at the Paragon II in Georgetown, is the place to start. From the opening bars of "Who We Gonna Put on Display," Fisher and Reed give musical shout-outs, making the band an instrument of the collective butt-shaking body: "We got Sherry in the house tonight and everything's gonna be alright, because she came to boogie, she came to boogie down." Then there's Mack Carey's gargantuan roto tom break, similar to the one that Rick Rubin lifted for "Rock the Bells," another breakdown, and finally Tony Fisher's "Hoooooooo-whee!" And that's just the first five minutes, folks,

Reed, just a funk-minded undergrad when he formed the band, says their business model was simple: "Our philosophy was to cram 'em, jam 'em until they recognize you." It's also an apt summary of their music. Nice to know that Trouble Funk is back to save our youth from us. &



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#### **Dec. 13** Wednesday

Guten beats Like their famous compatriots, downtempo stars Kruder and Dorfmeister, Viennese producers dZihan and Kamien are smooth as fuck, all supple bass lines, tasty keyboards, and kinetic percussion. The difference, then, isn't in the genre in which these two work there're no egotistical "variations" on the downtempo template here — but in their subtle approaches to it, specifically the amount of texture (multilayered instruments and plenty of overdubs) they add to their music. It's that distinctive quality that made their stateside debut, Freaks and Icons, one of the year's most pleasant surprises, almost (but not quite) making one forget about K and D. dZihan and Kamien headline a special edition of Séance, where resident DJ Franky Boissy should be on hand to warm the decks. 10 p.m., Backflip, 601 Eddy, S.F. \$5. (415) 771-FLIP. (Mosi Reeves)

Ani male Like other "new Bob Dylans," Dan Bern had his moment as the next big thing between 1996 and

# days aweek

Dec. 13-19, 2000

major-label

dropped

support

'97, when Work (then a promising subsidiary of Sony Music) released his Dog Boy Van EP and an eponymous full-length debut. Another CD, Fifty Eggs, followed shortly thereafter, and superheated, guitar-slashing, lyric-saturated performances like "Jerusalem," "Talkin' Alien Abduction Blues," "Oklahoma," "Wasteland," "Marilyn," "Tiger Woods," and "One Thing Real" put Bern in the politicotroubadour lineage of Woody Guthrie and the contemporary company of Ani DiFranco. Of course the

away, Bern's next recording, Smartie Mine, was an indie effort, and the artist now simply known as Bernstein is advance marketing his next CD on his Web site because, "Look, I don't have a record company and I'm fucking desperate, O.K.?" The DIY punk passion obviously hasn't abated. Bob Hillman opens. 8 p.m., Freight and Salvage, 1111 Addison, Berk. \$14.50-\$15.50. (510) 548-1761. (Derk Richardson)

#### Dec. 14 **Thursday**

I will survive The scent of choreographic experimentation is in the air, and it smells marvelous after so many months of bitterness and worry. Dance Mission has been given new life, and Sara Shelton Mann's comeback is still going strong. Now artist in residence at ODC Theater, Mann shares her dance research in progress in three performances of Survival/Phase 1. Working as always with a variety of superb dancers (who range in style from ballet trained to

theatrically postmodernist) and joined by composer Norman Rutherford and the Somei Yoshino Taiko Ensemble, Mann explores cultural influences, human contact, and the relationship between form and text. Take it

as an opportunity to catch a whiff of a local legend. Thurs.-Sat., 8 p.m., ODC Theater, 3153 17th St., S.F. \$15. (415) 863-9834. (Sima Belmar)

Island punch A fusion of Ponce, Puerto Rico's rich Spanish and African heritage, bomba y plena are vibrant, festive Caribbean

> rhythms best showcased during the Christmas season - when the aginaldos (songs) of the jibaro (country folk) are sung among family and friends. Son Borikua

is a talented ensemble of seasoned musicians from the island living in the Bay Area who, in one manifestation or another, have kept this music alive with this beloved annual event. Román Ito Carrillo, Melvin Olivieri, Miguel Luciano, Ronald Rosario, and Héctor Lugo

are all mainstays of the local new salsa and Latin jazz scenes, but tonight they take it back home to their roots. Dusting off the mandolin-like cuatro guitar, accordion, maracas, guiro, and bongos, they will stir up a communal chorus of joyful boricua

noise. 8 p.m., La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck, Berk. \$8. (510) 849-2568. (Chuy Varela)

#### Spawn of Devil Girl Think no one else is as strange, ugly,

depressed, lonely, and disturbed as you are? Don't flatter yourself. Even More Stranger Than You, a new show at the Cartoon Art Museum, spotlights 13 contemporary figurative artists who lay all their demons on the table. Marking the place where fine-art illustration meets comic art, the work here shares figuration, fine draftsmanship, economy of line, and humor with the odd psychological landscape handed down by the paterfamilias of odd psychological landscapes, R. Crumb. On view are pages from Jiminy Corrigan, The Smartest Kid on Earth, by Chris Ware, paintings by Jason Jagel, pages from the graphic novels Dear Julia and Frederick and Eloise, by Stephen Weisman, TV-tray paintings by Isabel Samaras, and original strips by Troubletown creator Lloyd Dangle (whose work appears in the Bay Guardian). New Langton Arts' related show, Stranger than You, opens Jan. 10 with pieces by Chris Finely, Dan Clowes, and others. Dec. 14-Feb. 25 (joint reception with New Langton Arts Jan. 11, 6-9 p.m.); museum hours Tues.-Fri., 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun., 1-5 p.m., Cartoon Art Museum, 814 Mission, S.F. \$2-\$5. (415) 227 8666. (Debbie Berne)

#### Dec. 15 Friday

Triple X-mas Forget the tired tradition of sitting on Santa's lap. Wouldn't you rather have a lap dance? Toss your old-fashioned ideas about Christmas aside at the Lusty Lady Playday, an annual event organized by the unionized, trailblazing Lusties themselves. Join them for fun and frolic as they emerge from behind the glass for special performances, backstage tours, topless shoe shines, naked violin playing, slave training, girl orgies, and more. Get a little, give a little is the theme of this yuletide event, which aims to pile up generous holiday bonuses for these hard-working dancers. 9 a.m.-4 a.m., Lusty Lady, 1033 Kearny, S.F. \$5-\$10. (415) 391-3991. (Sabrina Crawford)

Sugar plums If you feel a parental obligation to introduce your child to what for better or worse is a holiday tradition, head to the Paramount Theatre in Oakland. The grand, cathedral-like building itself will impress the young'uns — and so will the Oakland Ballet's Nutcracker. The production is a sweet take on the classic Victorian story of life turned into dream; the first act, in particular, is so focused that even young children will be able to follow the narration. You'll find humor and very little of the saccharine overload that sometimes mars fancier productions. And if you thought you would never see ballplayers on a ballet stage, go Fri/15, when members of the Oakland A's and the San Francisco Giants and 49ers (including Terell Owens!) will be turned into evil mice. Opens

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Fri/15, 7 p.m. Runs Sat/16-Sun/17, Wed/20, and Sat/23, 2 p.m.; Thurs/21-Fri/22, 7 p.m.; Sun/24, 11 a.m., Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakl. \$7-\$31. (510) 452-9288, www.oaklandballet.org. (Rita Felciano)

Round two In 1993 nightclub owner Kimball Allen opened Kimball's Carnival in Emeryville. Catering exclusively to Latin-music fans, it was frequented by salsaholics who often held steamy dance sessions to the music of local and internationally recognized bands. A couple of years ago Allen closed Carnival after a lease increase, vowing to return. Now, when the popularity of salsa music in the Bay Area is at an all-time high, Kimball's Carnival is reopening around the corner from Yoshi's in lack London Square. Picking up where it left off, the huge new venue plans to host well-known bands and super DJs like José Ruiz. The schedule of bands for opening weekend was not yet set at press time, so your best bet is to call for more information. A bailar y a gozar! 9 p.m., Kimball's Carnival, 522 Second St., Oakl. \$15. (510) 444-6979. (Varela)

#### Dec. 16 Saturday

Good-conscience shopping Not just another crafts fair (or faire), cell space's Fifth **Annual Winter Solstice Craft Faire** transforms the multidisciplinary collective's home turf into a marketplace stocked with works by local artists, craftspeople, and young participants in the Youth Enterprise and Arts Coalition. Forget that elusive PlayStation 2 - here you'll find unique, unusual holiday gifts that don't require the use of eBay or the black market to obtain: sculptures, jewelry, handmade paper, puppets, and dolls, the San Francisco League of Urban Gardeners' Urban Herbal jams, and much more. Proceeds benefit cell space and the artists. Stick around Saturday night for the "performance cabaret" featuring Butoh dance, spoken word, juggling, and live music. Through Sun/17, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. (cabaret Sat/16, 8 p.m.-midnight, \$10-\$15), cell space, 2050 Bryant, S.F. Free. (415) 970-9797. (Cheryl Eddy)

#### Dec. 17 Sunday

**Bushed and gored** The protests in Philadelphia and L.A. against the Republican and Democratic National Conventions would have gone largely unnoticed if thousands of activists had not put life and limb on the line, doing direct-action protests to expose the evil underpinnings of business as usual and risking the wrath of the almighty "justice" system as a result. Now, four hardcore bands come together to remind us that the battles fought in the streets of those cities weren't over once the tear gas cleared the air. Haymarket, Human Beans, Songs for Emma, and the Fleshies will be serving up the kind of butt-kicking noise that any punk at heart is sure to treasure, at a benefit for R2K activists still fighting trumped-up charges in the notoriously unscrupulous Philly courts. Proceeds will cover legal and travel costs of local R2K activists. 7 p.m., Covered Wagon Saloon, 917 Folsom, S.F. \$5. (415) 974-1585. (Camille T. Taiara)

#### Dec. 18 Monday

Bassoo-doo It's the rare jazz musician who stands absolutely alone with his instrument, to the point where you can't think of anybody even picking it up. That's where Paul Hanson has taken the bassoon, that difficult double reed most often blended into symphony woodwind sections. A member of Bela Fleck's Flecktones and a past collaborator with Peter Apfelbaum, Don Cherry, Billy Childs, Omar Sosa, and others, Hanson is celebrating the release of Voodoo Suite, his fourth CD as a leader. As adept at composing and improvising ideas as he is at executing them on the bassoon, Hanson weaves myriad influences - classical and Balkan music, Hendrix, electronics — into his jazz. His working Paul Hanson Group includes keyboardist Jeff Chimenti, pianist Jack Perla, bassist Jon Evans, and drummer Deszon X. Claiborne and is augmented tonight with the proverbial special guests. 8 and 10 p.m., Yoshi's, 510 Embarcadero West, Jack London Square, Oakl. \$10. (510) 238-9200. (Richardson)

#### Dec. 19 **Tuesday**

**Keep your teeth** 

Tenants of the Redstone Building, home to nonprofit arts and service organizations since 1968, are working hard to shield the historic structure from the dot-com invasion. Fundraising efforts include tonight's performance benefit to celebrate the holidays, All We Want for Christmas Is the Redstone, featuring music, spoken word, and performances by local artists concerned about the Redstone's future. Michelle Tea, Beth Lisick,

Jime Salcedo-Malo, James Tracy, Peter Plate, and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence take turns onstage; Pamela Z, Dr. Friendly's Fractal Circus, DM Feelings and the Grid, and the San Francisco Labor Chorus provide tunes; and the Video Activist's Network (VAN) debuts a new work. Speakers include Walter Johnson of the San Francisco Labor Council. Renee Saucedo of the Mission Anti-Displacement Coalition, and district activist Chris Daly, Proceeds benefit the Redstone Tenants' Association. 8 p.m., Lab, 2948 16th St., S.F. \$7-\$100. (415) 864-8855. (Berne)

#### Dec. 20 Wednesday

Big top These days the traditional circus has lost its entertainment value: clowns are scary, the same old trapeze act is tiresome, and circus animals are

simply being exploited. The New Pickle Circus, under the direction of Lu Yi, does a little reinventing with Tetrasomia: Circus of the Elements. Rather than (mis)using animals, the show focuses on the wonders of human ability. An international cast of acrobats. jugglers, aerialists, and contortionists commands the show with amazing feats, while the clowns incite laughter, not fear. Contemporary additions to this circus include "hip-hop hoop diving" and original trance, drum 'n' bass, and trip-hop music by Holmes D. Ives. Tonight's performance is preceded by an opening-night gala to benefit the San Francisco School of Circus Arts community services program. Opens Wed/20, 7:30 p.m. Runs daily through Sat/30, 7:30 p.m. (also Sat/23, Tues/26-Wed/27, Dec. 29-Dec. 31, and Jan. 1, 2 p.m.; no show Sun/24-Mon/25), Cowell Theater, Fort Mason Center, Marina at Laguna, S.F. \$10-\$65. (415) 392-4400 or (415) 759-8123 (openingnight gala tickets). (Sarah Han)

Vienna sausagefest: Downtempo

producers dZihan and Kamien are

and tasty keyboards.

smooth as fuck, with supple bass lines

The Bay Guardian listings deadline is two weeks prior to our Wednesday publication date. To submit an item for consideration, please include the title of the event; date and time; venue name; street address (listing cross streets only is not sufficient); city; telephone nuniber readers can call for more information; telephone number for media; admission costs; and a brief description of the event. Send information to Listings, 520 Hampshire, S.F. 94110; fax to (415) 487-2506 or e-mail to listings @sflvg.com. We cannot guarantee the return of photos, but enclosing an SASE helps. We regret we cannot accept listings over the phone.



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### Hot spot

nince 1995, *Poor* magazine has given low-income and homeless individuals a forum to discuss the issues and experiences that they encounter in their daily lives. Through programs like the Welfare to Work job-training program and media studies workshops, folks from various walks of life can deconstruct the stereotypes that

plague the homeless community - and directly challenge the bureaucratic dynamics that surround reporting and the media. To celebrate the publication of volume Deconstructing stereotypes: Poor magazine hosts a benefit party to give props to the contributors to its "Mothers Issue," such as Martina Gillis (center, shown here with family).

magazine contributors, and a roundtable discussion that reflects the issues raised in the magazine, such

four, titled the "Mothers Issue." Poor hosts a party and benefit that gives props to all of the women, mothers, and children who participated in the magazine's workshops and contributed to this latest release. Enjoy a dinner of homemade soup and bread, spoken word from

as what it means to be a mother. Fri/15, 7 p.m.,

255 Ninth St., S.F. Free-\$10. (415) 863-6306. (Cicely J. Sweed)





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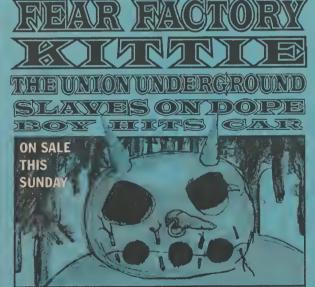
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Calling occupants of interplanetary craft: Katie Guthorn and Morey Goldstein star in "A Karen Carpenter Christmas," Dec. 19–23 and 26–29 at the Marsh.

#### attractions

The Christmas Sky See the Star of Bethlehem at the Chabot Space and Science Center's planetarium show, which recreates the same planetarium snow, which recreates the same night sky that appeared over a certain manger two millennia ago. Through Dec. 31. Tues–Fri, 2 and 4 p.m. (also Fri, 8:30 p.m.); Sat–Sun, 1, 2, 3, and 4 p.m. (also Sat, 11 a.m., noon, 8:30 p.m.), 10000 Skyline, Oakl. \$12–16.75 (includes admission and planetarium charge).

(maues unmission and planeturium trange). (510) 336-7300, www.chabotspace.org. Exploratorium Brush up on your grasp of simple machines at "The Physics of Toys," an annual deconstruction-of-toys event, or take a trip back in time with a film presentation of Dylan Thomas's "A Child's Christmas in Dylan I nomas s. A. Child S. Christmas in Wales" and Sheldon Cohen's 1980 animated short "The Sweater." "The Physics of Toys," Sai/16, Sat/23, noon—4 p.m.; "A Child's Christmas in Wales" and "The Sweater," Sat/23, 2 p.m., 3601 Lyon, S.F. \$2.50-9. (415) EXP-LORE, www.exploratorium.edu.

Holiday Lightfest More than a million lights

brighten the holiday entertainment at the Chronicle Pavilion, including Santa's Work-shop, kid's crafts, a "Carol-Oke" tent, a fun house, food, and music. Fri/15-Sun/24, Tues/26-Sun/30, 6-10 p.m., Chronicle Pavilion, 2000 Kirker Pass, Concord. \$5. (925) 671-

The Magical Brilliance of Christmas driving tour Get an eyeful of the city's most lavish displays on this tour. Through Satt 23, 5:30 p.m., meet at Villa Florence Hotel, 225 Powell, S.F. \$20–35. (650) 742-9611 (reserva-

107.7 The Bone's Zoolights The classic rock station brings more than 100,000 lights rigged to look like holiday characters and exanimals, train rides, and a holiday village to the Oakland Zoo. Through Sat/30, 5:30-9:30 p.m., 9777 Golf Links, Oakl. \$4-6.50. (510) 632-9525.

#### benefits

All We Want for Christmas Is the Redstone See 8 Days a Week, page 74. Thes/19, 8 p.m., the Lab, 2948 16th St, S.F. \$7-100. (415) 864-

Cable Car Caroling This 14th annual event uses a cable car to transport carolers to visit senior citizens living in nursing homes, private homes, and other locations. Caroli volunteers get a supper and a raffle at the end-of the day; proceeds benefit the Center for El-derly Suicide Prevention, part of the Goldman Institute on Aging. Sun/17, 3-7 p.m. Call to sign up and for location information. \$25. (415) 750-4180, ext 143.

Lusty Lady Playday See 8 Days a Week, page 74. Fri/15, 9 a.m. – 4 a.m., Lusty Lady, 1033 Kearny, S.F. \$5–\$10. (415) 391-3991.

Pet Photos with Santa The Peninsula Humane Society benefits when you immortalize Poochie on film with Santa. Thurs/14, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Great Mall of the Bay Area, 447 Great Mall Drive, Milpitas. \$9.99. (408) 956-2033 or www.GreatMallBayArea.com. Visit Holidays Past The historic 1897 Meyers

House and Garden Museum is open for tours; proceeds benefit the Alameda Museum. Sun/17, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., 2021 Alameda, Alameda. \$5. (510) 523-5907.

#### tree lightings and celebrations

The Cannery This reception for the Cannery's stable of local ceramists features an exhibit of handmade Christmas ornaments. *Thurs/14*, 6-10 p.m., the Cannery, 2801 Leavenworth, S.F. Free. (415) 440-2898.

Oickens of a Holiday Downtown Novato is decked out like 19th-century England, with Thurs/21, 4–7 p.m., Grant Ave., Novato. Free. (415) 892-1516.

Experience Corps Hollday Party Celebrate the holidays and the effort of older adults who help children succeed in public schools. Mon/18, noon-2 p.m., Sunset Neighborhood Beacon Center, 3925 Noriega, S.F. Free. (415)

Ghirardelli Square's Jollyday Bring the kids to see Santa and enjoy Christmas carolers, face painters, balloon artists, and puppet shows. Sat/16, noon-4 p.m., 900 North Point, S.F. Free. (415) 775-5500.

Holiday Festivities in Japantown Enjoy the thunderous, always entertaining San Francis-co Taiko Dojo, or check out the holiday mochi (rice) pounding ceremony. Taiko performance Sat/16, 1 p.m., Japantown Peace Plaza, Post at Buchanan, S.F.; 2 p.m., Kinokuniya Bldg, Post at Webster, S.F.; mochi pounding Sun/17, 1 p.m., Japantown Peace Plaza, 3 p.m., Kinokuniya Bldg, Free. (415) 202-0350.

Holiday Party for Children The Ina Chalis Opera Ensemble and the San Francisco Children's Chorus share billing with Santa Claus at this kids' event, Sun/17, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Community Music Center, 544 Capp, S.F. Free.

Midlife Gay Men's Holiday Party Get in the holiday spirit at this event. Tues/19, 6:30-9 p.m., Ellard Hall, 100 Diamond, S.F. \$5. (415) 430-2162, ext. 1385 (reservations preferred).

Posada and Pastorela Istitute Familiar de la Raza hosts this family event with arts and crafts, piñatas, performances, and more. noon, 2919 Mission, S.F. Free. (415) 647-4141.

Sweet and Soulful Christmas Party and Revue Sponsored by DeVoine Entertainment, this party features champagne, a buffet dinner, performances ranging from Polynesain dance to comedy, and dancing to a live band. Fri/15, 7 p.m.-midnight, Fort Mason Center, Bldg. A, Marina at Laguna St., S.F. \$35–50. (415) 292-5157.

Women's Winter Solstice Tea Dance Lesbian, bisexual, and transgender women of all ages are invited to dance to music by Lori Z. Sun/17, 3–6 p.m., Aquatic Park, 890 Beach, S.F. Free. (415) 255-2937, ext. 308.

Alameda Civic Light Opera Holiday Concert Award-winning singer and actress Rita Moreno and the San Francisco Boys Chorus headline this holiday music event. Sat/16, 7:30 p.m., Kofman Auditorium, 2200 Central, Alameda. \$25-\$60. (510) 864-2256.

Boys Choir of Harlem Christmas Tour Gospel tunes and Christmas spirituals highlight

this program. Sun/17, 3 p.m., Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness, S.F. \$13-37. (415) 864-6000

A Candlelight Christmas from Spain and the **New World** The San Francisco Bach Choir is joined by Coro Hispano de San Francisco and Conjunto Nuevo Mundo for this concert of Renaissance and Baroque tunes. Sat/16, 8 p.m., St. Ignatius Catholic Church, 650 Park-er, S.F.; Sun/17, 4 p.m., Calvary Presbyterian Church, 2515 Fillmore, S.F. \$22–26. (415) 441-

Carols In the Caves Enjoy the holiday season in cozy hand-dug tunnels as multi-instrumental improviser David Auerbach presents folkloric, audience-participatory musicals. Sat/16–Sun/17, 2 p.m., Folie à Deux Winery, 3070 State Hwy. 29, St. Helena; Sat/23, 7 p.m., RMS Carneros Alambic Stills, 1250 Cuttings Wharf, Napa. \$33-55. (925)

866-9559.

A Chanticleer Christmas The Grammy-winning a cappella ensemble performs songs spanning seven centuries of holiday favorites. Sat/17 and Sat/23, 8 p.m., St. Ignatius Church, 650 Parker, S.F. \$21-32. (415) 392-4400.

The Colors of Christmas Slow-jam your way

through the holidays with Peabo Bryson Roberta Flack, Marilyn McCoo, and Bill Medley. Mon/18-Wed/20, 8 p.m., Davies Syn phony Hall, 201 Van Ness, S.F. \$15-69. (415)

**Covenant Concerts** "Sing yourself into the Christmas spirit" at this audience-participation-encouraged concert. Sun/17, 4:30–6 p.m., 321 Taraval, S.F. Free. (415) 664-5553. Festival of Carols The San Francisco Choral Society performs classical and traditional car ols. Sun/17, 4 p.m., First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin, S.F. \$7-30. (415) 221-5590. Freelancers in Heaven The Golden Gate Brass Ensemble performs a humor-filled holiday show. Fri/22, 8 p.m., Old First Church, 1751 Sacramento, S.F. \$5–9. (415) 474-1608.

Holiday Concerts at the Wells Fargo History Museum These special one-hour lunchtime concerts, featuring groups like the San Francisco City Chorus (Wed/13), continue daily throughout Wed/20. Noon, 420 Montgomery, S.F. Free. (415) 396-4165.

Holiday Guitar Festival Lawrence Ferrara and friends from UC Berkeley, the San Francisco Classical Guitar Society, City College of San Francisco, and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music perform classical works. Sun/17, 4 p.m., Old First Church, 1751 Sacramento, S.F. \$5–9. (415) 474-1608.

Holiday Spirit Chamber chorus Sacred and Profane performs both classical and folk holi-day pieces. Sat/16, & p.m., St Mark's Episcopal Church, 2300 Bancroft, Berk. \$10–15. (510)

Jazz Up the Holidays at SFMOMA Check out the art and art-related gifts at SFMOMA while enjoying the sounds of jazz. Thurs/14 and Thurs/21, 6–9 p.m., SFMOMA, 151 Third St., S.F. Free with museum admission (\$2.50– \$4.50). (415) 357-4000.

Messiah at Grace Cathedral The American Bach Soloists are the featured performers at this festive concert. Tues/19-Wed/20, 8 p.m., Grace Cathedral, 1100 California, S.F. \$10-50. (415) 621-7900

Messiah Sing-Along Sing along to Handel's masterpiece with a little help from the College of Marin Community Chorus and the Sinfonia. Bring your own score or rent a copy for \$2. Wed/13, 8 p.m., Fine Arts Theater, Col-lege of Marin, 835 College, Kentfield. \$5. (415)

Music in the Streets Downtown Berkeley bursts with music on Fridays. Fri/15, catch the Cal Jazz Choir and barbershop quarted Oddly Enough. 5-7 p.m., Berkeley BART Plaza, 2150 Shattuck, S.F. Free. (510) 549-2230.

Peter and the Wolf The San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra performs Prokofiev's classic. The program also includes holiday favorites. Sat/16, 1 and 4 p.m., Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness, S.F. \$10-39. (415) 864-6000. Piedmont Children's Choir The award-win-

ning local children's choir performs classical favorites. Fri/15, 8 p.m., Old First Church, 1751 Sacramento, S.F. \$5–9. (415) 474-1608. Sing We and Chant—It's Christmas The San Francisco Concert Chorale performs chantbased holiday music. Sat/16, 8 p.m., Mission Dolores, 16th St. at Dolores, S.F.; Sun/17, p.m., St. Paul's Episcopal Church, El Camino Real at Chapin, Burlingame. \$10-\$20. (650)

Winter Festival The San Francisco Girls Chorus presents a series of holiday concerts fea-turing touring ensembles Chorissima and Virtuose. Fri/15, 8 p.m., Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox, Lafayette. \$12-35. (415) 392-4400

#### hanukkah and kwanzaa

Abayomi Storytelling Storyteller Muriel Johnson weaves tales and sings interactive African songs during a special Kwanzaa program. Wed/27, 3 p.m., Public Library, Melrose Branch, 4805 Foothill Blvd., Oakl. Free. (510) 535-5623; 5 p.m., Brookfield Branch, 9255 Fdes, Oakl. Free. (510) 615-5725.

Community Kwanzaa Celebration The Kwanzaa Organization Committee of Solano County hosts this day of food, vendors, entertanment, and more. Sat/30, 11 a.m.—5 p.m., Fairfield Center for Creative Arts, 1035 Texas, Fairfield. Free. (707) 428-7714.

Fifth Annual Hey Klezmeh! Festival SF Klezmer Experience plus John Kornbluth perform. Sat/23, 8 p.m., Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College, Berk. \$16-\$18. (510)

Hanukah Concert Celebration Dayka and Josh Kornbluth and friends perform New Jewish music mixed with monologues and memories about Hanukkahs past. Sat/16, 8:15 p.m., Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez, S.F. \$14-\$16. (415) 454-5238.

Kwanzaa-Hanukkah Celebration Teens in volved in the Isaiah Project, an African American and Jewish alliance for social justice, lead an evening of performance and discussion. Suh/17, 4–7 p.m., African American Historical and Cultural Society, Fort Mason Center, Ma-rima at Laguna, S.F. \$5–\$10 (free for 20 and under). (415) 957-1551, ext. 130.

A Spirited Celebration of Kwanzaa Awele Makeba tells stories and sings songs from African and African American folklore to cel-African and African American folkfore to ce ebrate the first day of Kwanzaa. Tues/26, 1 p.m., Lawrence Hall of Science, Centennial Drive off Grizzly Peak Blvd., UC Berkeley, Berk. \$3–7. (510) 642-5132.

Third Annual Kwanzaa Celebration Kids and families can make woven mats, candlehold-ers, and candles, all traditional symbols of Kwanzaa. African performers and musicians provide entertainment, Tues/26, 11 a.m. 4 p.m., Bay Area Discovery Museum, Fort Baker, 557 McReynolds, Sausalito. Free. (415)

#### nutcrackers and cracked nuts

The Hard Nul The Mark Morris Dance Group makes use of modern, classical, and popular choreography to update the tradi-tional Nutcracker to America, circa the "super-tacky" 1960's. Wed/13—Sat/16, 8 p.m. (also Sat/16, 2 p.m.); Sun/17, 3 p.m., Zeller-bach Hall, UC Berkeley, Bancroft at Telegraph, Berk. \$26–50. (510) 642–9988.

The Mousecracker Snapdragon Puppets Productions performs an all-puppet version of the Tchaikovsky favorite. Mon/18, 3 p.m., Eastmont Branch, Eastmont Town Center, Ste. 211, 7200 Bancroft, Oakl; Mon/18, 7 p.m., Dimond Branch, 3565 Fruitvale, Oakl. Free. (510) 597-5023 (510) 597-5023

The Nutcracker The San Francisco Ballet — The Muturacker The San Francisco Bailet — creator of the first American production of Nntcracker in 1944 — brings the Mouse King, the Sugar Plum Fairy, and a 28-foot Christmas tree to life: Opens Ties/12, 7:30 p.m. Wed/13–Sat/23 and Ties/26–Sat/30, 7 p.m. (also Fri/15–Sat/23 and Ties/26–Sat/30, (also FT/15-Sat/25 and Thes/26-Sat/30, 2 p.m.); Tues/24 and Sun/31, 11 a.m. and 4 p.m., War Memorial Opera House, 301 Van Ness, S.F. \$9–120. (415) 865-2000.

The Nutcracker The Oakland Ballet per-

forms this holiday classic at Oakland Paramount Theatre. Call or check Web site for info on special low-cost "Dancing in for info on special low-cost "Dancing in Our Backyard" YMCA performances. See 8 Days a Week, page 74. Opens Fri/15, 7 p.m. Runs Sat/16-Sun/17, Wed/20, Dec. 23, 2 p.m.; Dec. 21-22, 7 p.m.; Dec 24, 11 a.m., 2025 Broadway, Oakl. \$7-31. (510) 452-9288, www.oaklandballet.org.

The Nutcracker Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley

performs a "split run" of the ballet adapted from E.T.A. Hoffmann's story. Tues/19—Sat/23

and Tues/26-Thurs/28, 7:30 p.m. (also Fri/22-Sat/23, Wed/27-Thurs/28, 1:30 p.m.); Sun/24, 1:30 p.m., San Jose Center for the Performing Arts, 255 Almaden, San Jose. \$20-65. (408) 288-2800.

The Nutcracker Solano Civic Ballet brings Clara, Drosselmeyer, and the Sugar Plum Fairy to the stage. Thurs/21, 8 p.m.; Fri/22– Sat/23, 2 and 7:30 p.m., Fairfield Center for Creative Arts, 1035 Texas, Fairfield. \$12–18.

#### theater, comedy, and performance

Alameda performs Gian-Carlo Menotti's opera about a child who meets the Magi. Sun/17,7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church. 2001 Santa Clara. Alameda. \$10-15. (510)

All That Glitters Dinner theater, medieval style, as Geoffrey Chaucer and Co. performs a musical version of the Canon's Yeoman's tale from the Canterbury Tales while wenches and lads serve period-appropriate eats. Fri/15-Sat/16, 7 p.m.; Sun/17, 1 p.m. Larkspur Cafe Theatre, 500 Magnolia, Larkspur. \$32-45.

Beach Blanket Babylon The nation's longestrunning musical revue includes a chorus line of tap-dancing Christmas trees and a gigantic yuletide hat. Runs Tues-Thurs, 8 p.m. (no show Tues/26; also Wed/13, Wed/20, and Wed/27, 5 p.m.); Fri–Sat, 7 and 10 p.m.; Sun, 3 and 7 p.m. Special New Year's Eve performances, 7 and 10:15 p.m. Through Sun/31 Chib Fugazi, 678 Green, S.F. \$25-62. (415)

Black Nativity Joyful gospel voices fill the Lor-raine Hansberry Theatre for this perfor-mance of Langston Hughes's musical play. Thurs-Sat, 8 p.m.; Sun, 4 p.m. Through Sun/24. Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, 620 Sut-ter, S.F. \$22–30. (415) 474-8800. Black Nativity The Allen Temple Baptist

Church's Cantaleers perform Langston Hughes's play of traditional and popular gospel songs. Fri/15–Sat/16, 8 p.m.; Sun/17, 6 p.m. Allen Temple Baptist Church, 8501 International Blvd., Oakl. \$5–15. (510) 569-6183.

The Christmas Ballet Michael Smuin choreographs a two-act holiday show with dancers getting their groove on to both classical and rockin' tunes. Thurs/14-Fri/15, Tues/19-Fri/22, Wed/27-Fri/29, 8 p.m.; Sat/16-Sun/17, 541/23, Ved127-F11/29, 8 p.m.; Salt 16-Sun/17, Salt/23-Sun/24, Sat/30, 2 p.m. (also Sat/16 and Sat/23, 8 p.m.; Sun/17, 7 p.m.), Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission, S.F. \$25-40. (415) 978-ARTS.

A Christmas Carol American Conservatory Theater presents their annual production of Laird Williamson and Dennis Powers's interpretation of the Dickens classic. See Stage list-

The Christmas Revels The Scottish Rite Theater presents their 15th annual "alternative holiday entertainment" extravaganza mark ing the winter solstice. This year's production is set in Renaissance Italy, with music, dance, masks, juggling, and multicultural celebration. Fri/15, 8 p.m.; Sat/16-Sun/17, 1 and 5 p.m., Scottish Rite Theater, 1547 Lakeside, Oakl. \$15-30. (510) 601-8932 or www

.calrevels.org.
Café Flamenco Fiesta Navidad Yaelisa and Caminos Flamencos perform, with special guests Romerito and Candelita. A sing-along of Spanish Christmas carols caps off the evening. Sun/17, 7 p.m., ODC Theater, 3153 17th St., S.F. \$10–\$14. (415) 863–9834.

Christmas on the Mountain Willows Theatre

performs Connie Ray's musical sequel to the performs Connie Ray's musical sequel to the popular Sinoke on the Mountain, following the Sanders Family Singers as they celebrate Christmas on the eve of World War II. Wed-Thurs, 7:30 p.m. (also Wed, 3:30 p.m.); Fri—Sat, 8 p.m. (also Sat, 2 p.m.); Sun, 2 p.m. (no show Tues/24). Through Sun/31. Willows Theatre, 1975 Diamond, Concord. \$20–30. (925)

A Gift of Christmas Storyteller and Celtic harper Patrick Ball performs. Sat/16. 8 p.m., Showcase Theatre, Marin Center, Avenue of the Flags, San Rafael. \$10–\$15. (415) 472-3500. A Karen Carpenter Christmas Karen (eerily impersonated by Katie Guthorn) learns about the spirit of Christmas in the seventh annual production of this only-in-San-Francisco holiday classic. Tues/19-Sat/23 and

Tues/26-Fri/29, 8 p.m., the Marsh, 1062 Valencia, S.F. \$17. (415) 826-5750.

Tetrasomia: Circus of the Elements See 8
Days a Week, page 74. Opens Wed/20,
7:30 p.m. Runs daily through Sat/30, 7:30 p.m
(also Sat/23, Tues/26-Wed/27, Fri/29-Sun/31) and Jan. 1, 2 p.m.; no show Sun/24-Mon/25), Cowell Theater, Fort Mason Center, Marina at Laguna, S.F. \$10-65. (415) 392-4400 or (415) 759-8123 (opening-night gala tickets).

The Whistleaires' Big Christmas Special This variety show features comedy, music, and dancing with the Whistleaires, Santa, tiny elves, a talking ape, and other unusual guests. Fri/15-Sat/16, 8 p.m. Exit Stage Left, 156 Eddy, S.F. \$10-14. (415) 673-3847.

A Wonderful Life Brother-sister act Sarah Hope and Matthew Liebowitz — together they're known as Take 2 — deliver a new twist on holiday entertainment with classic and humorous cabaret and musical theater tunes. Fri/15, Fri/22, 9:30 p.m., Piaf's, 1686 Market, S.F. \$10–15 (415) 864-3700.

The Wrapping Paper Caper: A Tale of Holiday Mischief Puppet master Liebe Wetzel and her Lunatique Fantastique troupe present an allages detective tale acted out by puppets made from household objects. See review in Stage listings. Sat/16-Sun/17, 1:30 p.m.; Mon/18-Sat/30, 1:30 p.m. (no shows Sun/24-Mon/25), Il Teatro 450, 449 Powell, S.F. \$10-12. (415)

#### arts and crafts

Affordable Art Give your loved ones art without obliterating your savings at this sale, which features original works (all priced under \$200) by local artists. Through Jan. 28 (gallery hours Sun, Tues-Thurs, noon-9.p.m.; Fri-Sat, noon-undught). CityArt Cooperative Gallery, 828 Valencia, S.F. Free. (415) 970-9900.

Berkeley Artisans Holiday Open Studios Over 100 Berkeley-area artists working in all media open their studios each weekend in media open Their studios each weekend in December. Through Sun/17. Sat-Sun, 11 a.m.–5 p.m. For map, send SASE to Berkeley Artisans Map, 1250 Addison #214, Berkeley, CA 94702 or go to www.berkeleyartisans.com. Free. (510) 845-2612.

Berkeley Farmers' Market Holiday Crafts Fair

At this benefit for the Ecology Center, local craftspeople offer a variety of items. There's also live music, magic shows, and organic fruits and veggies. Sat/16 and Sat/23, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Civic Center Park, Center and MLK Jr. Way, Berk. Free. (510) 548-3333.
Fifth Annual Winter Solstice Crafts Faire See 8

Days a Week, page 74. Sat/16-Sun/17 10 a.m.-6 p.m. (special performance cabaret, Sat/16, 8 p.m.-midnight, \$10-15), cell space, 2050 Bryant, S.F. Free. (415) 970-9797. Gift Rap Creative Growth's annual holiday ex-

hibition and sale celebrates art made by adults with disabilities. Gallery hours: Mon-Fri, noon-5:30 p.m.; Sat/16, Sat/23, 10 a.m.-4 p.in. Exhibit through Jan. 5. 355 24th St., Oakl. Free. (510) 836-2340.

Great Dickens Christmas Fair Hailed as a "Victorian Christmas card come to life," this into a 19th-century village. Sat/16—Sun/17, 11 a.m.—8 p.m., Cow Palace Exhibition Hall, 2600 Geneva, S.F. \$5–15. (415) 897-4555 or vw.dickensfair.co

Potters' Studio Holiday Sale Hot pit-fired works, including vases, fountains, vessels, and more, make this sale unique. Through Sat/23, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., 637 Cedar, Berk. Free. (415)

Purple Crayon's Holiday Camp Drop off the kids for arts-and-crafts fun while you get your last-minute shopping done. Mon/18– Fri/22, 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Purple Crayon, 301 Cornwall, S.F. \$50 (day), \$200 (week). (415)

s.m.a.r.t. Bazaar Shop for clothing, artwork, music, and more, with live DJs providing tunes. Sat/16–Sun/17, noon-6 p.m., Joypad Media Lounge, 78 Minna, S.F. Free. (415)

Third Annual Holiday Show Emerging Bay Area artists are highlighted at this show, which offers works priced around \$500. Through Sat/23. Opening reception Thurs/7, 6–8 p.m. (gallery hours Mon.–Sat., 6 p.m.; Sun., noon–5 p.m.), Hang, 556 Sutter, S.F. Free. (415) 434-4264.

'Tis the Reason More than 30 artists exhibit their works for the holidays. Through Wed/20. Mon.—Sat., 11 a.m.—5:30 p.m.), Michael Martin Gallery, 251 Post, S.F. Free. (415) 217-0070.



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DOORS 7:30 / SHOW 8 + S10 ADV. / S12 DOOR
CRAZY TOWN

**SLAVES ON DOPE / SHUVEL** MON., OEC. 18 • DOORS 7 / SNOW 8 UNSPUN RECORDS WELCOMES

**VELVET ACID CHRIST** HAUJOBB / DIN FIV

FRI., OEC. 22 • DOORS 7 / SHOW 8
SS ADVANCE / \$10 DOOR
ONE MAN ARMY
YOUTH BRIGADE
THE BOOIES / RICHMOND SLUTS

SAT, OEC. 23 • DOORS 8 / SNOW 9
S12 ADVANCE / S12 DOOR
THE BLASTERS

VICTOR KRUMMENACHER

SUN., DEC. 24 - 7 PM & 9:30 PM
S15 ADVANCE / S15 DOOR
OAKLAND INTERFAITH GOSPEL ENSEMBLE

WECOMES FRI., OEC. 29
BOOKS # / SHOW 9 \* \$17 ADV. / \$17 DOOR
BERLIN FLATURING TERRI NUNN

**ELECTRIC PEACH** 

SAT., DEC. 30 • DOORS 8 / SHOW \$10 ADVANCE / \$12 DOOR THE "BLUE CNRISTMAS" SHOW **MEMPHIS UNDERGROUND** 

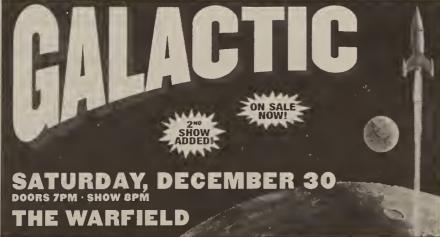
STARRING CHANCE TINDER AS ELVIS

TUES., JAN. 2 • DOORS 7:30 / SHOW 8 \$20 AOVANCE / \$20 DOOR **ISSAC DELGADO** 

SAT., JAN. 6 • DOORS 8 / SNOW 8 S8 ADVANCE / \$8 DOOR

**BOOMSHANKA / BLUEBEARD** SHANE DWIGHT BAND FEATURING MELDDY JUANE







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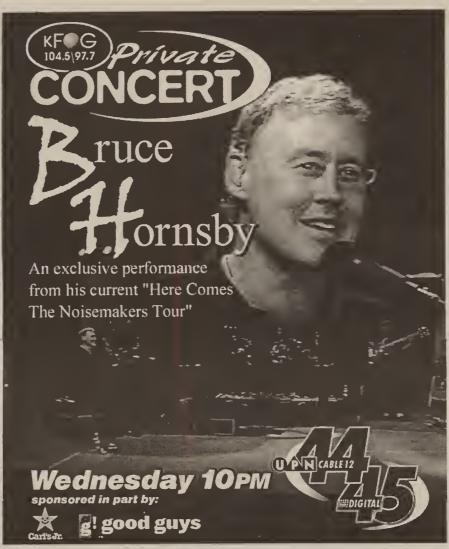
BILL GRAHAM CIVIC AUDITORIUM: Tickets at ali outlets, including The Wharehouse. Charga by phona: (415/650) 478-2277 • (510/925) 762-2277

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All dates, acts, and tickat prices are subject to change without notice service charge is added to each ticket price. Visa, MC accepted. Diseating available at all ticket centers. Six ticket limit per person.





**Uniting Souls Presents** 

Sunday December 17,2000 A night of tag team sessions with two rooms of djs

Nathan & Ivan (groovetech & jah love rec.)

Solar & Galen (pacific sound & sunset)

Garth & Josh (wicked & the gathering)

Riddler? & Moses (uniting souls)

Seven (visual attack)

Ms. E! & Push (radio v & future breaks)

lvry & Aye~n (compound rec. & splank)

DJ fidnan has been a tireless supporter of our dance community since 1992, after he moved to SF from Brazil. He is a Uniting Souls resident and has worked with Dubtribe, Pacific Sound, Wicked, Bultetproof, Spundae, The Gathering, and ComeUnity to name a few.

Adnan is currently recovering after having a tumor removed. The medicat costs associated with his surgery and recovery will be tremendous, especially without health insurance. We're throwing a benefit for Adnan because our community's greatest strength is its support for its people. We'd like to thank all the DJ's, bas space, flomad Design and all of you for helping this event become a reality. this event become a reality.

NILEVIDE O



8pm - 2am • \$10, 21 & up bas ~ 383 Bay St. @ Mason Info: 415.441.3885 • www.bas-space.com



## music

Music instrings are compiled by Most Reeves. Music intern is Sabrina Crawford. As club life is impredictable, it's a good idea to call ahead to confirm bookings and hours. Prices are listed when provided to us. See 8 Days a Week for information on how to submit an item to listings

#### wednesdav 13

#### Rock/blues/hip-hop

Blew Willie Last Day Saloon. 9pm. Dylan's 21st birthday party. Blue Reptiles Blue Lamp. 9:30pm.

John Davis Cosmopolitan Cafe, 121 Spear; 543-4001, 8pm.

Wendy Dewitt Saloon. 9:30pm. Fightmaster, Jet Set Cafe du Nord. 10pm, \$5. Five Point Plan Boom Boom Room. 9:15pm, \$4. James Inveld Elbo Room. 10pm, \$6.

Jesus Christ Superstar, Stymie Paradise

Lounge. 8:30pm. With the Beanweevils in the upstars lounge.
Taj Mahal Fillmore. 8pm, \$25.
Misfire, Goh Hotel Utah. 8:30pm.
Dpen mic Ireland's 32. 9pm.
Pure Ecstasy Top of the Mark. 8:30pm, \$6. Samiam, Weston, Sam Geronimo, Cutlass Supreme Bottom of the Hill. 8:30pm, \$8. Wet Gate, Blectum from Blechdom Lab, 2948 16th St; 864-8855. 9pm, \$5-10. 024C, Soapbox, People's Bizarre Kimo's. 9:30pm.

#### Bay Area

Dan Bern, Bob Hillman Freight and Salvage. 8pm, \$14.50-15.50. See 8 Days a Week,

page 74.
Shelly Doty X-tet Fourth Street Tavern.

Billy Dunn and Bluesway Ashkenaz. 9pm, \$8. Randy, Chub Blake's. 9:30pm, \$3.

#### Jazz/new music

Don Asher and Eddie Duran Moose's. Spin. Ned Boynton Combo Enrico's, 7pm Bob Dalpe and the Compass Rose Trio Westin St. Francis Hotel, 335 Powell; 397-7000. 5pm. Also Thurs/7, Mon/11-Tues/12. Mike Lipskin and D'Lilah Montroe House of

Steve Lucky and the Rhumba Bums Cafe Co-

Jason Myers Trio Houstons, 1800 Montgomery; 392-9280. 6pm. Also Thurs/7, Tues/12.

Open mic Bistro E Europe, 4901 Mission; 469-5637. 7pm. Also Tues/19.

Al Pacheco Jazz Band Skip's Tavern. 8pm. Zeena Quinn Hyatt Regency, Atrium Bar, 5 Embarcadero Center; 788-1234. 5pm. Kevin Rayhill One Market Restaurant. 6:30pm. Also Tues/19.

6:30pm. Also Tues/19.

We Three John's Grill, 63 Ellis; 986-0069.
6:30pm. Also Thurs/14-Tues/19. Wesla Whitfield Plush Room. 8pm. \$20. Also Thurs/14, Sun/17.

#### Bay Area

Cyrus Chestnut Trio Yoshi's. 8 and 10pm, \$16. Through Thurs/14. Rhythm Section 19 Broadway. 9:30pm.

Bob Schoen Quartet Anna's, 1801 University, Berk; (510) 849-2662. 8pm. Chris Shot Group Jupiter. Spm

#### Folk/world/country

Acoustic open mic Lost and Found Saloon.

Ben Goldberg Group A Traveling Jewish Theatre, 470 Florida; 399-1809. 8pin, \$12. Rory McNamara Plough and Stars. 7pm. Surco Nuevo Pier 23. 9:30pm.

Parlando Tango Butterfly, 1710 Mission; 864-

Jimbo Trout and the Fishpeople Johnny

#### Bay Area

lrish Session Cato's Ale House. 6pm. Solstice Berkeley Public Library, North branch, 1170 Alameda, Berk; (510) 644-

#### **Dance clubs**

Audible Colors Top. 7pm. 2-step music with Tasho and guests.

Bondage A Go-Go Cat Club. 9pm-3am, \$7-

10. With DJs Damion and Fernando. Break An Sibin, 1176 Sutter; 929-1992. 9:30pm-2am. With David Michael and Hank the Guy with Records spinning funky breaks

Club Blaze 1028 Geary; (925) 946-6216. 9pm. With DJ Rob Reyes, DJ T-Ski, and DJ Rum. Cream Butter, 354 11th St; 863-5964. 8pm-2am. Discover Ruby Skye. 9pm-3am, \$10. House music with resident Ben Doren. Dish Blind Tiger, 787 Broadway; 820-1621.

9pm. With residents Juss Derek, Luke, and weekly guests.

Elephunk Justice League, 9pm-2am, \$7. Hiphop music with Raw Deluxe and Ted Shred. El Rio 7:30pm. Classic Latin music with DJ

Expansions Movida Lounge, 200 Fillmore, 934-8637. 9pm. Afro-Latin rare grooves with

DJ Vinnie.

Focus Nickie's BBQ. 9pm. DJ Masao and
Bump Tribe spin deep house.

Gather Round Fuse, 493 Broadway; 788-2706.

10pm-2am. With Cinammon Underpants and DJ Design.

Groove Jet Holy Cow. 9pm. With local DJs.

House of Stone Endup. 10pm-4am, \$5-7 With resident DJs Blackstone and Sam. Jazz II Jungle Tongue and Groove. 9pm, \$5. With DI Denizen.

Lithium Lounge 26 Mix. 10pm-2am, \$3. Live jazz and drum 'n' bass with Shan Kenner

Nessun Dorma HiFi. 10:01pm. With rotating residents Evan Madden, Queen Agnes B, and

Anthony spinning house.

Poly's Playhouse Hush Hush Lounge. 9pin2am, \$4. With DJ Polywog and the Tadpoles and guests.

Progress Liquid, 2925 16th St; 289-6833.

9pm, \$3. Techno and trance. Qoöl 111 Minna St. 5-9pm, \$5. Pan-techno lounge with DJs Spesh, Gil, Hyper D, and

Red Wine Social Dalva, 3121 16th St; 332-5800, ext 211. 10pm-2am. With Toph One. Seance Backflip. 10pm-2am, \$5. See 8 Days a

Sophistifunk Storyville. 10pm-2am. With Rueben, Khaled, and guests.

Sound Invasion Boomerang. 8pm, \$5. Hiphop, R&B, and reggae with the Almighty DJs. Therapy Bohemia, 1624 California; 474-6968. 10pm. DJs Reda, Maurice, and Efrem spin

**Wasabi** Glas Kat. 10pm-2am. House and urban grooves with rotating residents.

#### Bay Area

Club Fusetti 10pm. Salsa and merengue with

**Soulvation** Ruby Room, 132 14th St, Oakl; (510) 444-7224. 10pm-2am.

#### Classical

San Francisco Conservatory of Music students San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Agnes Albert Hall, 1201 Ortega; 759-3475. 8pm. The conservatory's students give a iano accompanying recital.

SFSU Chamber Singers St. Patrick's Church, 756 Mission; 777-3211. 12:30pm. The ensem-ble, led by conductor Joshua Habermann and accompanied by pianist Stephen Da-monte, performs a holiday concert of works by Praetorius, Victoria, and Britten.
San Francisco Lyric Dpera Gershwin Theater,

Turk at Masonic; 921-7410. 7:30pm, \$10-20. The opera performs Puccini's Tosca in Italian with English subtitles. Through Sun/17. San Francisco Symphony Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness; 864-6000. 8pm, \$15-80. The symphony, featuring countertenor David Daniels, performs a concert of works by Berlioz, Ravel, and Rachmaninoff. Michael Tilson Thomas conducts. Through Sat/16.

#### thursday 14

#### Rock/blues/hip-hop

Abbotfinney Edinburgh Castle. 9:30pm Actionslacks, Carlos, Buddhakowski, Decal Bottom of the Hill. 9pm, \$7.
Brenda Boykin and Home Cookin' Boom Boom Room. 9:15pin, \$4.

Jimmy Derwane and London Phillips Cos-Albert 'King' Giles Skip's Tavern. 7pm.

'Hex Appeal' Kimo's. 9:30pm, \$5. With Puss
Muppets, Deadbeat Action Machine, and DJ

K.C. and the Blue Flames Blue Lamp. 9:30pm. Pop Rocks Tongue and Groove. 10pm, \$10.
'Sugar Sims Musical Revue' Last Day Saloon. 9pn, \$6. Benefit for Bay Area food banks.

Type O Negative, Simon Says Slim's. 9pm, \$18. Rusty Zinn Saloon, 9:30pm.

#### Bay Area

Buckets, Caleb Klauder Starry Plough. 15pm, \$5

Cat Fourth Street Tavern. 9:30pm. Farrallon, Liz Anah 19 Broadway. 9:30pm. Country Pete McGill and His Cottonfield Blues Band 10739 MacArtlmr, Oakl; (510)

Jackie Payne Bluesville. 9pm.

#### Jazz/new music

Blue Room Boys Top of the Mark. 8:30pm, \$6. Crying High, DJ IJ Cafe du Nord. 10pm. Scott Foster Trio San Francisco Brewing nv 155 Columbus: 434-3344, 9pm Dick Fregulia-Vince Gomez Trio Cobalt Tav-

Phillip Greenlief Quartet Bruno's. 9pm. Boris Hauf, Xopher Davidson Luggage Store

Gallery. 8pm, \$6-10. Jinx Jones Cafe Claude. 7pm. Shan Kenner Trio Enrico's. 7pm

Mike Lipskin and Waldo Carter Moose's. 8pm. Larry D'Leno Piano Bar, 1092 Post; 771-2022. 8:30pm. Also Fri/15-Sun/17.

Billy Philadelphia One Market Resignant. 6:30pm. Also Fri/15-Sat/16.

San Francisco Symphony Jazzers Butterfly. Starlight Drchestra Starlight Room. 8pm.

Bay Area

Cyrus Chestnut Trio Yoshi's. 8 and 10pm, \$16. Joshi Marshall Project Jupiter. 8pm.
Sean Reid Trio Anna's, 1801 University, Berk; (510) 849-2662. 8pm.

#### Folk/world/country

Acoustic open mic Sacred Grounds Cafe Acoustic open mic sacred crounds case, 2095 Hayes; 387-3859, 7:30pm. With Todd Tholke and guests.

Avocado Brothers Atlas Case. 8pm.

Eoin Harrington Trio Johnny Foley's. 9pm.

International gypsy jazz open mic Bistro E Europe, 4901 Mission; 469-5637. 7pm. Michelle McGrath Simple Pleasures Cafe. 8pm. Tipsy House Plough and Stars. 7pm.

#### Bay Area

Steve Baughman, Duck Baker, Dylan Schorer Freight and Salvage. 8pm, \$15.50-16.50. Keni 'El Lebrijano' Albatross, 1822 San Pablo, Berk; (510) THE BIRD. 9pm. Son Borikua La Peña Cultural Center. 8pm, \$8. See 8 Days a Week, page 74.

#### **Dance clubs**

Arabian Nights El Rio. 9pm. With Amira. Circuit Breaker Fuse, 493 Broadway; 788-2706. 9pm-1:30am. With Centipede, Joe

DiscoKitty Polly Esther's. 9pm. '70s and '80s

Drink Club 26 Mix. 9pm-2am.

Dubphonik Justice League. 9pm, \$15. With Shinehead, Rocker T, Jahyzer, and Coop

Eden AsiaSF. 10pm. House, disco, and hip-

Eden AsiaSt. 10pm. House, disco, and hip-hop with rotating residents.
Electrofreq 354 11th St; 863-5964. 7pm.
Elementary Movida Lounge, 200 Fillmore; 934-8637. 9pm. With DJ Sloppy J spinning Jazz, funk, and Latin.
Faith City Nights. 9:30pm, \$12. With residents Blackstone, Ruben Mancias, Jay-R, and Tatin.

and Twist.

Free Liquid, 2925 16th St; 790-6594. 10pur-2am. With DJ Dimitri and guests. Fudge Sacrifice. 10pm-2am, \$3. JB spins

Full Circle Club 238, 238 Columbus; 339-7899. 10pni-5ain. With residents Norm Stradley and Ben Doren.

Future Primitive Soundsession Bas. 9:30pm,

\$20. See A&E article, page 67. **Gravity** Backflip. 10pm, \$5. DJs Reda and Ahmir spin deep grooves and house. Continued on page 84



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13 1 OPM \$6 SPEEDY'S WIG CITY PRESENTS FROM LOS ANGELES

#### THE JAMEŠ INVELD **CHRISTMAS SHOW**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15 10PM \$6 BRAZILIAN FUNK

#### **NOBODY FROM** IPANEMA

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16 10PM \$6 ONE LOVE/HIP HOP **FELONIOUS** 

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 9PM \$4 DUB MISSION PRESENTS THE BEST IN DUB & ROOTS WITH

DJ JAH YZER

**DJS MANEESH** THE TWISTER **AND VINNIE** 

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19 9PM \$6 BRAZILIAN SWING **ENTRE NOS** 

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PEEPSHOW: SLIMY SANTA &
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Alcohokaust Presents Happy Hour Show 6pm \$3 Bottles & Skulls The Whoremoans Shut the Fuck up

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IN THE FRONT ROOM: Jenny & Omar
Spirming in the back room:

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WED 12/13 OM TRIO

THURS 12/14 CHAD WAGNER

QUARTET

S Black Cal

BROADWAY @ KEARN

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Music & Dance Community Center 1317 San Pablo at Gilman Berk.

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BLUES & SWING TONIGHT 12/13 9 PM \$10 BILLY DUNN

and Bluesway B pm dance lesson w/Nick & Shanna

THURS 12/14 10 PM \$5 DEAD DJ NITE

HEADWATERS BENEFIT FRI 12/15 9 PM \$10-20 Alice Di Micele Band Rachel Garlin

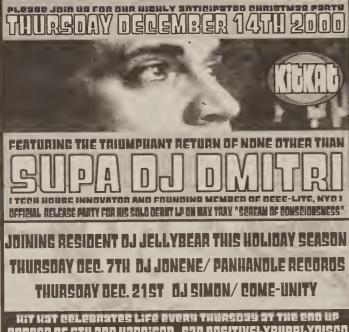
REGGAE SAT 12/16 9:30 PM \$10

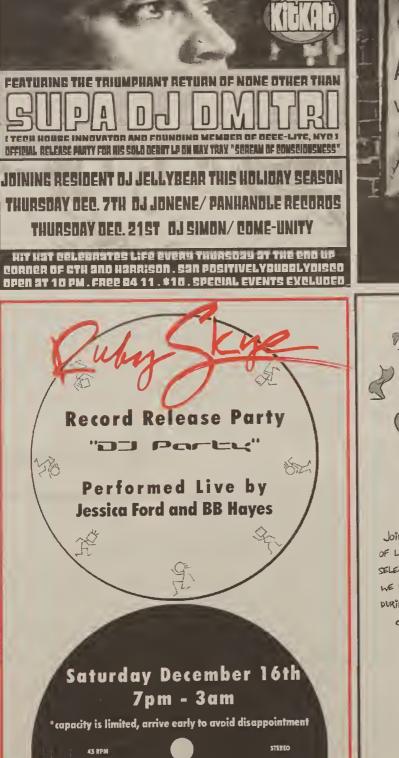
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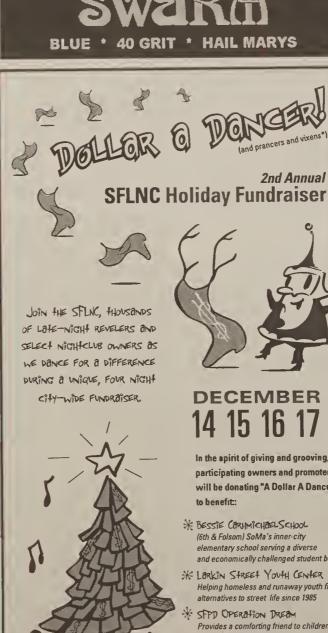
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GUARDIAN







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- Provides a comforting friend to children encountered on domestic calls

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## club guide venue directory

Amnesia 853 Valencia; (415) 970-8336. Annie's Cocktail Lounge 15 Boardman Place; (415) 703-0865.

(415) 703-0865.
AsiaSF 201 Ninth St; (415) 255-8889.
Backflip 601 Eddy; (415) 771-FLIP.
Baobab 3388 19th St; (415) 643-3558.
Bas 383 Bay; (415) 441-3885.
Bauhaus 6139 Geary; (415) 387-1151.
Beach Chalet 1000 Great Highway; (415) 386-8439.

365-6439. Beauty Bar 2299 Mission; (415) 285-0323. Big Heart City 836 Mission; (415) 777-0666. Bimbo's 365 Club 1025 Columbus; (415) 474-

Biscuits and Blues 401 Mason: (415) 292-

Black Cat 501 Broadway; (415) 981-2233 Blackthorn Tavern 834 Irving; (415) 564-

Blue Lamp 561 Geary; (415) 885-1464. Boom Boom Room 1601 Fillmore; (415) 673-8000.

Boomerang 1840 Haight; (415) 387-2996 Bottom of the Hill 1233 17th

St; (415) 621-4455. Brainwash 1122 Folsom; (415)

Broadway Studios 435 Broadway; (415) 291-0933.
Bruno's 2389 Mission; (415)

Bubble Lounge 714 Mont-gomery; (415) 434-4204. **Butterfly** 1710 Mission; (415) 864-5575.

The Cale 2367 Market; (415)

Cafe Bastille 22 Belden; (415) Café Claude 7 Claude; (415)

392-3505. Cafe Cocomo:650 Indiana;

(415) 824-6910. Cale du Nord 2170 Market;

(415) 861-5016. Cale International 508 Haight; (415) 552-7390.

Cafe Niebaum-Coppola 916 Kearny; (415)

Casanova Lounge 527 Valencia; (415) 863-

9328. Cat Club 1190 Folsom; (415) 431-3332. Cellar 685 Sutter; (415) 441-5678. Circadia 2727 Mariposa; (415) 552-2649. City Nights 715 Harrison; (415) 546-7938. Club Deluxe 1509–11 Haight; (415) 552-

Club Malibu 3369 Mission; (415) 821-7395. Club Six 60 Sixth St; (415) 863-1221. Club Townsend 177 Townsend; (415) 974-

CoCo Club 139 Eighth St; (415) 626-2337. Cosmos 2730 21st St; (415) 282-9926. Covered Wagon Saloon 917 Folsom; (415)

974-1585. 974-1585. Cypress Ciub 500 Jackson; (415) 296-8555. Deuces 2319 Taraval; (415) 566-9122. DNA Lounge 375 11th St; (415) 626-1409. Dylan's 2301 Folsom; (415) 641-1416. Eastside West 3154 Fillmore; (415) 885-

4000. Edinburgh Castle 950 Geary; (415) 885-4074. Elibo Room 647 Valencia; (415) 552-7788. Endup 401 Sixth St; (415) 357-0827. Enrico's 504 Broadway; (415) 982-6223. Expansion Bar 2124 Market; (415) 863-4041. Fillmore 1805 Geary; (415) 346-6000. 42 Degrees 235 16th St; (415) 777-5559. Gathering Caffe 1326 Grant; (415) 433-4247. Gln Joint 312 Harriet; (415) 934-1655. Glas Kat 520 Fourth St; (415) 495-6626. Great American Music Hall 859 O'Farrell: Great American Music Hall 859 O'Farrell; (415) 885-0750.

Hi-Bali Lounge 473 Broadway; (415) 397-

HiFi 2125 Lombard; (415) 345-TONE. Hobson's Choice 1601 Haight; (415) 621-

Holy Cow 1531 Folsom; (415) 621-6087. Hotel Utah 500 Fourth St; (415) 546-6300. House of Shields 39 New Montgomery; (415)

Infusion 555 Second St; (415) 543-2282 Ireland's 32 3920 Geary; (415) 386-6173. Irish Bank 10 Mark Lane; (415) 788-7152 Java on Ocean 1700 Ocean; (415) 587-3126. Jazz at Pearl's 256 Columbus; (415) 291-

8255. Jelly's 295 China Basin Way; (415) 495-3099. Johnny Foley's 243 O'Farrell; (415) 954-0777. Les Joulins 44 Ellis; (415) 397-5397. Julie's Supper Club 1123 Folsom; (415)

Justice League 628 Divisadero; (415) 289-

2038. Kate D'Briens 579 Howard; (415) 882-7240. Kimo's 1351 Polk; (415) 885-4535. King Street Garage 174 King; (415) 665-

Last Day Saloon 406 Clement; (415) 387 Lexington Club 3464 19th St; (415) 863-

Lost and Found Saloon 1353 Grant; (415)

Lou's Pier 47 300 Jefferson; (415) 771-0377. Luggage Store Gallery 1007 Market, Second fl: (415) 255-5971

Mad Dog in the Fog 530 Haight; (415) 626-

7279. **Make-Dut Room** 3225 22nd St; (415) 647-2888

Mario's Bohemian 2209 Polk; (415) 776-8226. Maritime Hall 450 Harrison; (415) 974-0634. Mexican Bus Bus leaves from Chevy's at Fourth Street at Howard; (415) 546-3747.

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Moose's 1652 Stockton; (415) 989-7800. Nickle's BBQ 460 Haight; (415) 621-6508. Noe Valley Ministry 1021 Sanchez; (415)

D'Farrell Street Bar 800 Larkin; (415) 567-

9326. Old First Church 1751 Sacramento; (415)

Paradise Lounge 308 11th St; (415) 861-

Plaf's 1686 Market; (415) 864-3700. Pler 23 Pier 23; (415) 362-5125.

474-1608. 111 Minna St. 111 Minna; (415) 974-1719. One Market Restaurant 1 Market; (415) 777-

Peña del Sur 2870 22nd St; (415) 550-1101.

Plough and Stars 116 Clement; (415) 751-

Plush Room 940 Sutter; (415) 885-2800. Polly Esther's 181 Eddy; (415) 885-1977. Pow! A Cocktail Lounge 101 Sixth St; (415)

Powerhouse 1347 Folsom; (415) 552-8689. Purpe Dnion 140 Columbus; (415) 398-8415. The Ramp 855 China Basin; (415) 621-2378.

Rasselas 2801 California; (415) 567-5010. Red Devil Lounge 1695 Polk; (415) 921-1695

Redwood Room Clift Hotel, 495 Geary; (415)

Rick's 1940 Taraval; (415) 731-8900. El Rio 3158 Mission; (415) 282-3325. Ritz-Carlton 600 Stockton; (415) 296-7465.

Rose Pistola 532 Columbus; (415) 399-0499. Royale 1326 Grant; (415) 433-4247. Ruby Skye 420 Mason; (415) 693-0777. Sacrifice 800 South Van Ness; (415) 641-

Seals Cove Pier 33, Embarcadero; (415) 788-

Shanghai 1930 133 Steuart; (415) 896-5600. Shannon's 1609 Powell; (415) 982-8898. Simple Pleasures Cafe 3434 Balboa; (415)

Skip's Tavern 453 Cortland; (415) 282-3456.

Skip's Tavern 433 Contain, (415) 222-3436. Slim's 333 11th St; (415) 522-0333. Sno-Drift 1830 Third St; (415) 431-4766. Someplace Else 1795 Geary; (415) 440-2180. Sound Factory 525 Harrison; (415) 979-8686. South Beach Billiards 270 Brannan; (415)

764-0368. Space 550 550 Barneveld; (415) 550-8286. Starlight Room Drake Hotel, 450 Powell; (415) 395-8595.

Stars 555 Golden Gate; (415) 861-7827. Storyville 1751 Fulton; (415) 441-1751.

Saloon 1232 Grant; (415) 989-7666.

holiday concert at Noe Valley Ministry Sat/16.

278-0940.

4343

387-4022.

764-0389

Venue 9 252 Ninth St; (415) 626-2169. Vivande Ristorante 670 Golden Gate; (415) 673-9245. Voodoo Lounge 2937 Mission; (415) 285-3369. Warfield 982 Market; (415)



The Stud 399 Ninth St; (415) 252-7883. Studio 435 435 Broadway; (415) 291-0333. Sweat Shop 1943 Mission; (415) 487-1903.

Tango Tango 1550 California; (415) 775-

0442.
Tempest 431 Natoma; (415) 495-1863.
Ten 15 Folsom 1015 Folsom; (415) 431-0700.
330 Ritch 330 Ritch; (415) 541-9574.
Tip Top Inn 3001 Mission; (415) 824-6486.
The Top 424 Haight; (415) 864-7386.
Tongue and Groove 2513 Van Ness; (415)

Top of the Mark Mark Hopkins Intercontinental Hotel, 1 Nob Hill; (415) 616-6916. Toronado 547 Haight; (415) 863-2276. Transmission Theater 314 11th St; (415)

Trapdoor 3251 Scott; (415) 776-1928

**26 Mix** 3024 Mission; (415) 248-1319. **Up & Down Club** 1151 Folsom; (415) 626-

Velvet Lounge 443 Broadway; (415) 788-

861-6906

Ashkenaz 1317 San Pablo, Berk; (510) 525-5054. Baltic 135 Park Place, Point Richmond: (510) 235-2532 Bison Brewing Company 2598 Telegraph, Berk; (510) 841-7734.

Blake's 2367 Telegraph, Berk; (510) 848-0886. Bluesville 131 Broadway, Oakl; (510) 893-6215.

Caribee Dance Center 1408 Webster, Oakl; (510) 835-4006. Cato's Ale House 3891 Pied-

mont, 0akl; (510) 655-3349. Club Fusetti 815 West Francisco, San Rafael; (415) 459-6079.

Eli's Mile High Club 3629 MLK Jr Way, Oakl; (510) 655-6661

Fourth Street Tavern 711 Fourth St, San Rafael; (415) 454-4044. Freight and Saivage 1111 Addison, Berk;

H's Lordships 199 Seawall, Berk; (510) 843-

Island Paradise Club 1436 Webster, Alameda:

Ivy Room Solano at San Pablo, Albany; (510) 524-9299. Jimmie's VIP Jazz Room 1731 San Pablo,

Jupiter 2181 Shattuck, Berk. (510) THE-ROCK. Kimball's East 5800 Shellmound, Emeryville;

(510) 658-2555. Lindee's Bar and Grill 2765 Clayton, Concord;

(925) 676-7272. New George's 842 Fourth St, San Rafael; (415) 457-1515. 19 Broadway 19 Broadway, Fairfax; (415)

924 Gilman 924 Gilman, Berk; (510) 525-

9926. Panache 639 E. Blithedale, Mill Valley; (415) 388-3493.

Paramount Theatre 2025 Broadway, Oakl; (510) 465-6400. Pasand Lounge 2286 Shattuck, Berk; (510)

549-2559. La Peña Cultural Center 3105 Shattuck, Berk; (510) 849-2568.

Peri's 29 Broadway, Fairfax; (415) 459-9910. Port Lite 229 Brush, Oakl; (510) 451-0600. Ruby Room 132 14th St, Oakl; (510) 444-

Starry Plough 3101 Shattuck, Berk; (510)

Stork Club 2330 Telegraph, Oakl; (510) 444-Sweetwater 153 Throckmorton, Mill Valley;

(415) 388-2820. Tavern Grill 1448 Burlingame, Burlingame;

(415) 344-5692. Terrace Lounge Claremont Hotel, 41 Tunnel, Berk; (510) 549-8576. Veterans Memorial Building 200 Grand, Oakl; (510) 238-2384.

White Horse 6551 Telegraph, Oakl; (510) 652-

Yoshi's 510 Embarcadero West, Jack London Square, Oakl; (510) 238-9200. \*

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**ED KELLY** W/ ROBERT STEWART ART LEWIS 10-2an

Friday December 15 **WHISKEY PILLS &** THE PBR STREET GANG 10-20m

Saturday December 16
ROOT AWAKENING REGGAE 10-2ar

Sunday December 17 DIAMOND SHIP 4-8pm

Monday December 18 MARTY EGGERS (SOLO PIANO) 5-7:30pm

On the Embarcadero, SF 415-362-5125





music

From page 81

calendar

Thursday 14

**Groove** Manhattan Lounge, 699 Market; 399-8305. 10:30pm-2am. House music with resident Gourachandra and guests.

Kandyfilp HiFi. 9pm-2am, \$5. World and electronic music with residents J. Blank, and

Gil, and guests.

Kit Kat Endup. 10pm-4am, \$10.

1984 Cat Club. 9pm. '80s music.

Dscillations An Sibin, 1176 Sutter; 929-1992.

9:30pm-2am. House music with John

Play Blind Tiger, 787 Broadway; 788-4020. 8pm-2am. House and funk with residents Phil Salter and Iggy and guests Pablo, O, and

Popscene 330 Ritch. 10pm-3am, \$5. Britpop,

indie, mod, new wave, electronic, and '60s soul with Aaron and Jeremy.

Reform Skool Stud. 10pm, \$5. Go-go boys, house, and urban beats with DJ Jeff Chan-

dler and guests.

Soulness Hush Hush Lounge, 496 14th St;
241-9944. 9:30pm-2am, \$3. DJ Goldmyne
and English Steve spin vintage soul and

R&B.
Str8 Up and Down Club. 10pm-2am, \$10.
With Ben Doren and Julius Melendez.
Sure Shot Top. 10pm-2am, \$5. Garage,
house, and breaks with residents Travis, Ben

Uncommon Drigins Hotel Utah. 9pm. With Zezer, Charlie Bucket, Just One, Pres, and

What Da Funk Nickie's BBQ. 9pm-2am. DJ Motion Potion spins old-school funk and

Beatdown Blake's. 9:30pin, \$5. With DJs Delon, Add One and Yamu spinning dance

Dedicated Followers of Fashion Ruby Room, 132 14th St, Oakl; (510) 444-7224. 10pm-

2am. Pop music.
Psycho-Synthesis Lost City 23 Club, 23

Vistacion, Brisbane; (415) 467-7717. 9pm-2am. Industrial, techno, and trance.

Cook, and Chris Orr.

rare grooves.

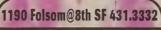
Bay Area

Instrumental Sound Factory. 10pm, \$5-10. With Mr. E. and DJ Qwest.

rock







Wednesday Dec 13th 200 Next Week: Alss Bondage A.Go Go Contest

PYGMY CHILDREN

Reggae Lounge On Broadway, 334 Broadway, Jack London Square, Oakl; (510) 663-8189. 9pm-2am, \$6. With Peja Peja, Polo Mo'xquuz, and Ashanti Hi Fi.

So Many Styles Eli's Mile High Club. 8pm.
Funk, soul, and R&B with Styles, and

#### Classical

Robert Mann San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Agnes Albert Hall, 1201 Ortega; 759-3475. 8pm, \$6-10. The violinist gives a recital of works by Beethoven, Schumann,

San Francisco Lyric Dpera Gershwin Theater, Turk at Masonic; 921-7410. 7:30pm, \$10-20. Through Sun/17. See Wed/13.

San Francisco Symphony Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness; 864-6000, 2pm, \$15-80. Through Sat/16. See Wed/13.

#### friday 15

#### Rock/blues/hip-hop

Animal Liberation Drchestra, Tree D'Frogs Tongue and Groove. 9pm. Blues Power Saloon. 4pm.

Spear; 543-4001. 8pm.

Bobbyteens Kimo's. 9:30pm, \$5.

Boom Boom All-stars Boom Boom Room.

Breakestra, Mission Justice League. 9pm Captain Tonic Voodoo Lounge. 10pm, \$5. Chazz Kats Johnny Foley's. 9pm. Heather Combs, Veronica Lustre Hotel Utah.

Everlast, Fastball, Nelly Furtado Warfield.

Green Day, Papa Roach, Deftones, Disturbed, A.F.I. Bill Graham Civic Auditorium, 99 Grove; (415) 421-TIXS. 7pm.

Martin Franco Paradise Lounge. 6pm. Lab Rats Skip's Tavern. 9:30pm. Through Los Lobos Fillmore. 9pm, \$29.50. Through

Tony Mattioli's Stolen Bibles Blue Lamp.

Johnny Nitro Saloon. 9:30pm. Also Sun/10. Shut the Fuck Up, Whoremoans, Bottles and Skulls Covered Wagon Saloon. 6pm, \$3. Storm, Venus Bleeding, Kindness Bottom of

Zigaboo Modeliste Last Day Saloon. 9pm, \$10.

Swarm, Blue, 40 Grit, Hail Mary Paradise Lounge. 8:30pin. With the Beenweevils in the upstairs loun

They Call Me Lucky Brainwash. 8pm. Ticket to Ride Ireland's 32, 9pm.
Whiskey Pills, PBR Street Gang Pier 23, 10pm.

#### Bay Area

iazz, folk/world

dance clubs & classical

Bloodstone Kimball's East. 8 and 10pm, \$26-28. Through Sun/17.

Brass Monkey Drchestra Fourth Street Tav-

Dealership, Vagabond Lovers, Eric McFadden **Duo** Starry Plough. 9:45pm, \$5. 30th birthday party for Sam Hurwitt.

party for Sam Hurwitt. Alice Di Micele, Rachel Garlin, Making Waves Ashkenaz. 9pm, \$10-20. Benefit for Bay Area Coalition for Headwaters.

Jerry Joseph Sweetwater. 9:30pm. Jimmy Mamou Eli's Mile High Club. 8pm. Mission, Scoopadat, Children of the Corn

Blake's. 9:30pm, \$5. Tienneman Square, Scurvy Dogs Port Lite.

9pm, \$3. Nicole Vigil Band Ivy Room. 10pm, \$5. Beverly Watson and the Dynamic Four, Sonata Pi Bluesville. 5:30pm. S.E. Willis and the Roscoes Baltic. 9:15pm.

#### Jazz/new music

Black Market Jazz Drchestra Top of the Mark. 9pm, \$10. Also Sat/16.

Dick Conte Trio Cobalt Tavern. 7pm Bob Dalpe and the Compass Rose Quartet Westin St. Francis Hotel, 335 Powell; 397-

7000. 5:30pm.
Chris Huson Moose's. 8pm.
Mal Sharpe and Big Money in Jazz Enrico's.

Chris Shot Trio Circadia, 8pm, \$3. Wesla Whitfield Plush Room. 8pm. \$25. Also Sat/16.

#### Bay Area

Cal Jazz Choir Berkeley BART Plaza, Shat-tuck at Center, Berk; (510) 549-2230. 5pm. Hideo Date, Anna and Frederico Cervantes Anna's, 1801 University, Berk; (510) 849-

Steven Emerson Jupiter. 8pm.
Pat Martino Trlo Yoshi's. 8 and 10pm, \$20. With Joey DeFrancesco and Billy Hart. Through Sun/17.

#### Folk/world/country

Ashia Cafe Claude. 7pm Zoe Ellis Band Butterfly. 10pm. Marisa Handler Simple Pleasures Cafe. 8pm. Gregory James 26 Mix, 5pm. Stephen Kent and Geoffrey Gordon Clarion

Music Center, 816 Sacramento; 391-1317.

Ben Krames Quartet Eastside West. 9pm. Nobody from Ipanema Elbo Room. 10pm, \$6. Waybacks Plough and Stars. 7pm.

#### Bay Area

Rebecca Riots Freight and Salvage. 8pm, Wig Salad, New Monsoon 19 Broadway.

X-Roads La Pena Cultural Center. 8pm, \$7-10.

#### **Dance clubs**

**Activate** Manhattan Lounge, 699 Market; 552-1346. 5-10pm. Kylen, Brian Cox and Chameleon spin techno.

Assimilate 2000 Cat Club. 9:30pm-3am. With DJs Damon and Viper.

Backflip 10pm-2am, \$5. House music.

Candy Sacrifice. 10pm-2am, \$5. Hip-hop, rock, and new wave with Spin and Grand T. Club Nzinga El Rio. 9pm, \$7. World beat with DI Ruiz.

Cymbiosis Movida Lounge, 200 Fillmore; 934-8637. 7pm. Jazz, salsa, and funk. Dig Liquid, 2925 16th St; 289-6833. 10pm-2am, \$3. Drum 'n' bass and house music with Chad Mitchell, JP Soul, and Dansmith. Evolution Space 550. 10pm-6am, \$15-20. House music with Onionz, Leon Roberts, and several others.

Continued on page 87



**EVERY WEDNESDAY** 

Salsa Con Clase w/ Alex da Silva, DJ Music Afterwards

FRIDAY DEC 15TH

## DJ JORGE

SATURDAY DEC 16TH

DJ JORGE COMING DEC 31ST

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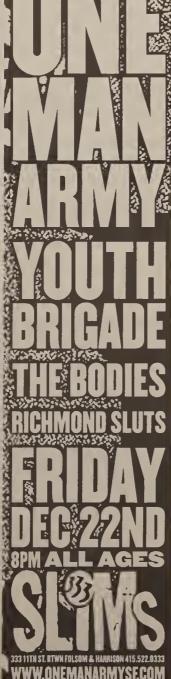
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Fri: hip hop. funk. and reggay. dec.15: starring dee-jay B-Cause

Sat: djs Kevin. Huckster. good groove. dec.16: co/star dee-jay Sea (True Intent).

Sun: djs Woo & Maz. downtempo. drum and bass. 2 step garage.

Mon: open turntables for local DJs

Tue: dee-jay B.Love spinning the kool style reggae & hip hop.

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Wed 12/13 TOM JONESING (Ton Jones Tribute Band)

Thurs 12/11 PEANUT AND THE **APOCALYPSE** 

Fri 12/15 DIVALICIOUS A Disco Christmas Tribute

> Sat 12/16 80'S ALL STARS

(All The Way from San Diego)

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W/ Roberta Donnay

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> 26MLX 3024 Mission @ 26th GNC Maki Line: 820-9661 26mix.com boys welcome, but only if they behave.

3:30pm - 10pm

\$5 - free 64 5pm



Samiam Wed 12/13 8:30 Weston San Geronimo Cutlass Supreme

Actionslacks iCarlos! Thu 12/14 9:00 \$7 Buddhakowski Decal

Fri 12/15 10:00 \$7 Storm Venus Bleeding Kindness

Gaza Strippers feat. Rick Sims/ Didits Sat 12/16 10:00 \$7 Caustic Resin 3 Ball Dirtbox & Bloodroses

benefit for Pancreatic Cancer
benjamin orr tribute

CARS covers Sun 12/17 5:30 \$7 screening of "CARS LIVE"
Double Life with special speaker Jonathan Richman

Til Seven Years Pass Over Him Norbert

Tue 12/19 9:00 \$6 Drunk Horse Totimoshi Black Queen

Wed. 12/20 9:00 \$5 Tang! Gimbo

UPCOMING

benefit for Popular Noise Beth Lisick . Orixa 12/21 Swarm • Rumah Sakit Paula Frazier • Jolly! Dean Del Rey • Elvarados Scott Miller

Silkworm Kinski 12/22 Dealership

bottom of the hill XMASO PARTY 12/23 free with DJ Gadget

Sun 24 >>>> Thu 28 · closes .

Pinback Mates of State Jim Yoshii Pile Up 12/29

The Mermen 12/30 That One Guy

new Year's ele PARTY Sister Double Happiness

Waycross Slojack



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COUNTDOWN "5<u>0</u>75 Terence McKenna

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9pm The Peeps
The Things
7:30pm The Whiskey Rebel's
Book Signing (Spoken Word)

Fri 12/15 Big Red Orange

Sat 12/16 The Lewd 10pm The Loudmouths Alter Me

Wed 12/20 Channel 13 Charmless Fiction

Thur 12/21 Cutthroats 9 (ex-Unsane) 9pm Dopesick (ex-Skinlab) Urine

Tempest XXXmas Party Parnoid (Black Sabbath Tribute) Super Stooges (Iggy Pop) Brain Kennedy Fresno John Thee Baker Fri 12/22 10pm

Pool/Pinball mium Beer Special \$2.50 y Hour 5-9 Bud/Pabst \$ 431 Natoma St. SOMA Info: 495-1863

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12/17 Pop THE SMARTIES BITESIZE

12/18 Local Artist Showcase ERIC SHEA & M **MOLLY TUTTLE'S HOLIDAY HOOT** With Many Special Guests

12/19 Electro Pop PSYCHOKINETICS **KOOKEN & HOOMEN** 9:30pm

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Mox 12/18

on organ & Billy 12/17 Hart on drams

> Bay Area Bossoonist Celebrates CD! PAUL HANSON GROUP

TUE 12/19 DR. JOHN THRU SAT Tickets Going Fast! 12/23

AFRICAN ROOTS OF JAZZ 6TH ANNUAL 12/24 YOUTH ARTS BENEFIT CONCERT

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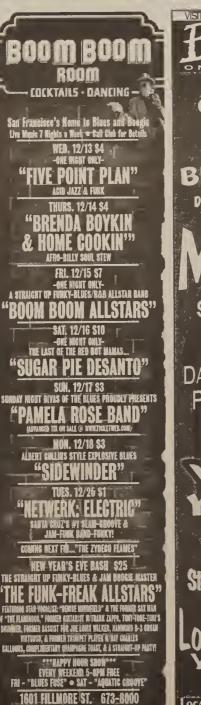
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## rock, jazz, folk/world, dance clubs & classical

#### music calendar

#### Friday 15

From page 84

Fag Fridays Endup. 10pm-5:30am, \$8. With Fag Fridays Endup. 10pin-5:30am, \$8. With Rolo, Ruben Mancias, and Blackstone. Far East Blind Tiger, 787 Broadway, 788-4020. 10pin-2am, \$5. House and 2-step with Paul Craven and guests. Fogfest An Sibin, 1176 Sutter; 929-1992. 6-9pin. With Deepfrog, Zeremy, and Smurx. Garage 1028 Geary; 430-2169 ext. 9183. 10pin. House music with residents James Reed and Mone.

Topin: House music with residence james. Reed and Mone.

Heaven Club 238, 238 Columbus; 339-7899.

9:30pm-4am. Acid jazz, R&B, and house music.

House Beautiful Sno-Drift. 10pm-4am.

Ibiza Club NV, 525 Howard; 339-8686.

9:30pm. R&B, Top 40, and salsa.

Maze Club Six. 10pm-3:30am, \$10. Techhouse and trance with Steve Mason, Henrik,

Lava Lounge Iron Horse, 19 Maiden Lane; 789-7899. 10:30pm. Brazilian, reggae, house, nd R&B.

Life VSF, 278 11th St; 210-8633. 10pm-2am. Soul, R&B, club classics and grooves.

Mad Dog in the Fog 10pm. With DJ Kirsten

Mandala Amoeba Music, 1855 Haight; 831-

Mandala Amoeba Music, 1855 Haight; 831-1200. 7:30-10pm.

Mexican Bus Meet at Chevy's, 201 Third St; 543-8068. 9:15pm, \$38, reservations required. '50s style bus tour of several local salsa clubs.

Metronome Ballroom 1830 17th St; 252-9000. 9pm-midnight, \$6-8. Ballroom dance party. Mission K.D. 26 Mix. 9pm-2am. House music with M3 and Ammon Haggerty.

Mosaic Joypad, 78 Minna; 789-7690. 10pm-

2am. Electronic music with residents and guests Clark Warner, Luke Magnuson, and

Move to the Groove Cafe Cocomo. 9pm-2am, \$10. Swing, salsa, disco, and funk with Thunderpussy and DJ Maestro.

Playground Rawhide 11, 280 Seventh St; 820-1555. 10pm-2am, \$10. House music with Ellen Ferrato, Adrian F, and Phreakin K. Sequence Glas Kat. 10pm-2am. With RTigger, Bruce, Switch, and rotating residents. Square Ruby Skye. 9pm-3am. House music

with rotating DJs.
Wicked Club Townsend. 11pm-7am, \$15. With
DJs Garth, Jeno, Thomas, and Markie Mark.
Wisdom Nickie's BBQ. 9pm-2am. Wisdom

spins funk and soul classics.

X City Nights. 10pm. With David Garcia and

XL Manhattan Lounge, 699 Market; 764-6922. 9pm-2am. With resident Repete.

#### Bay Area

Baja Fridays Club Luce, 2439 Durant, Berk; (510) 594-4083. 10pm, \$5. With Caesar Garcia and Paolo Vincenti.

Club Fusetti 10pm. Live Brazilian music with

400 Club 400 29th St, Oakl; (510) 261-1108.

9pm-2am. DJ dancing. In the Mix Temple Bar, 984 University; (510) 548-9888. 9:30pm. Hip-hop, R&B, dancehall,

Ruby Room 132 14th St, Oakl; (510) 444-7224. 10pm-2am. '70s and '80s glam, rock, and pop music.

#### Classical

Alexis Alrich Colton Piano, 500 Van Ness; 864-0500. Noon. The pianist gives a recital with violinist Katheryn Sugden and cellist Randy Fromme.

Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys with Or-

chestra Grace Cathedral, 1100 California; 762-2277. 4pm, \$12-50. The choir performs a Christmas concert. Through Sun/17. a Christmas concert. Inrough sunt/7.
San Francisco Boys Chorus Calvary Presbyterian Church, 2515 Fillmore; 665-2330.
7.30pm, \$10-12. The chorus, under the direction of lan Robertson, performs Bach's
Magnificat, as well as other holiday classics.
San Francisco Lyric Opera Gershwin Theater, Turk at Masonic; 921-7410. 7:30pm, \$10-20. Through Sun/17. See Wed/13.

San Francisco Symphony Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness; 864-6000. 8pm, \$15-80. Through Sat/16. See Wed/13.

#### saturday 16

#### Rock/blues/hip-hop

Backpages Johnny Foley's. 9pm. Randy Becket's Rebel Train Mad Dog in the

Fog. 10pm.
Big Brother and the Holding Company, Stephany Wells, New Dealers Paradis Lounge. 8:30pm. With Belly Love in the up-

Bluesville Bombers Saloon, 4pm. Blues Fuse Atlas Cafe, 4pm.
Bubble Dff Plumb Ireland's 32, 9pm.
Sugar Pie Desanto Boom Boom Room.

Electric Angel Cafe Abir, 1300 Fulton; 567-7654. 8 and 9:45pm.

Johnny Fabulous Cosmopolitan Cafe, 121

Spear; 543-4001. 8pm. Felonious Elbo Room. 10pm, \$6. With

Gaza Strippers, Caustic Resin, Three Ball

Bottom of the Hill. 10pm, \$7.

High Rollers Paradise Lounge. 6pm.

Jerry Joseph and the Jackmormons, Caleb Klauber, John Shipe Last Day Saloon. 9pm,

Lab Rats Skip's Tavern. 9:30pm. Curtis Lawson Saloon. 9:30pm.
Ledisi Bruno's. 10pm.
Little Bird Brainwash. 8pm.
Los Lobos Fillmore. 9pm, \$29.50.
Edna Love and the Lovetoys Blue Lamp.

Mother Truckers, Joe Buck Hotel Utah. 9pm. Mover, Petrol Cafe du Nord. 10pm, \$7. Red Meat, Apt. No. 9 El Rio. 10pm, \$5. Shmoogie, Kung Fu USA, Chantigs Kimo's.

#### Bav Area

Alien Lovestock Fourth Street Tavern.

Bloodstone Kimball's East. 8 and 10pm, \$26-

28. Through Sun/17.
Funk Foundations Bluesville. 9pm, \$10.
In Violet, She Mob, Ramona the Pest Port

Lite. 9pm, \$3.

Mumble and Peg, GrndNtl Brnds, Gray Davis

Jackie Payne blues jam Bluesville. 4:30pm.
Pollo Infirmo 19 Broadway. 10pm, \$10. Russell Scott and the Red Hots Ivy Room

Solomite, Dank Man Shank, Pirate All-stars

Blake's. 9:30pm, \$5. Ron Thompson Eli's Mile High Club. 8pm. Raymond Victor Band Baltic. 9:15pm.

#### Jazz/new music

Gerald Beckett Jazz Trio Garibaldi Cafe, 1600 17th St; 552-3325. 7pm,
Rhonda Benin and Soulful Strut Enrico's.

Beth Custer Dona Luz 3D Besos Circadia.

Jeanne Hoffman and Don Bennett Moose's.

8pm, Also Tues/19. **Lorna K**. Cafe Claude. 7pm Michael LaMacchia Trio Cobalt Tavern.

Mark Little Crocker Galleria, 50 Post; 393-1505. 2pm. With Anton Schwartz.

BJ Papa Cafe Prague, 584 Pacific; 433-3811. Raw Deluxe Eastside West. 9pm

Marcus Shelby Orchestra Butterfly. 10pm. Vince Wallace, Joy of Jazz San Francisco Brewing Company, 155 Columbus; 434-3344.

#### Bay Area

Donald 'Ouck' Bailey and the Distones, Anna and Federico Cervantes Anna's, 1801 University, Berk; (510) 849-2662. 8pm. Jazz Singers' Collective Borders Books and

Music, 5820 Shellmound, Emeryville; (510) 654-1633, 2pm

Lili Layton and the Jazz Doctors Gatsby's, 39 Caledonia, Sausaliti; (415) 332-4500. 7pm. Pat Martino Trio Yoshi's. 8 and 10pm, \$20. Through Sun/17. See Fri/15. Ben Rodefer Quartet Jupiter, 8pm

#### Folk/world/country

Oavka and Josh Kornbluth Noe Valley Ministry. 8pm, \$14-16. Louis Killen San Francisco Maritime Park, Fisherman's Wharf at Hyde Street Pier, Hyde

at Jefferson; 556-3002. 8pm, \$12. Paddy's Oream Plough and Stars. 7pm. Ronald Rosario, Melvin Martinez, and Salvador Boricua Peña del Sur. 8pm, \$6. Root Awakening Pier 23. 10pm.

Continued on page 89







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153 Throckmorton Mill Valley \* 415-388-2820

Wednesday 12/13
RAMBLIN' JACK ELLIOT 8:30pm

Thursday 12/14 STORM, INC Opening: Wake

9:30pm

*Griday 12/15* NOELLE HAMPTON + JERRY JOSEPH & The Jackmormons

9:30pm Saturday 12/16

**Heather Combs Band CD** Release Party 9:30pm

Sunday 12/17
Jules Broussard 4-8pm

From Calobo: Caleb Klauder 8:30pm

Monday 12/18 Special Monday night show Long John Baldry & Kathi Mcdonald 8:30pm

Tues. - Thurs. 12/19-21 **Christmas Jug Band** W/ Special Guests 8bm \$10

Happy Hour All Week Microbrews on tap \$2.75 pints M-Sa 12-7pm

HOUSEWORKS

12/13 DANCE AND GET SPUN BY THE BEST HOUSE DIS IN TOWN - HOSTED BY DAYID WALKER OPEN 9PM: \$3/10PM

THURS CALIENTE RIDDIM

12/14 A BLEND OF HOT LATIN AND DANCEHALL-LATIIN AND REGGAE UNITE ONCE AGAIN DANCE OPEN - 9PM: \$5-8/10PM

FRI CLOSED FOR PRIVATE PARTY 12/15

SAT OPEN FOR DINNER AND COCKTIALS W/ 12/16 TRANSMISSION TRIO NO COVER/7PM GITANE DEMONE (GOTHIC) **EXCLUSIVE SAN FRANCISCO APPEARANCE!** \$5-10/10PM

SUN 12/17 MÕN 12/18

PRIVATE EVENTS CALL 441-1751

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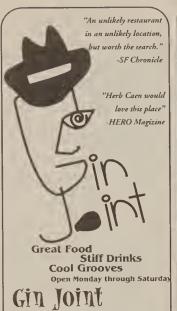


12PM ETHAN IVERSON SPECIAL MIDNIGHT SHOW /13

/14

10PM BRASS MONKEY 10PM BABATUNDE LEA & FRIENDS /15

/16 10PM BITCHES BREW
/19 9PM & 11PM A NIGHT OF SERIOUS DRINKING NO COVER TUESDAY THROUGH THURSDAY



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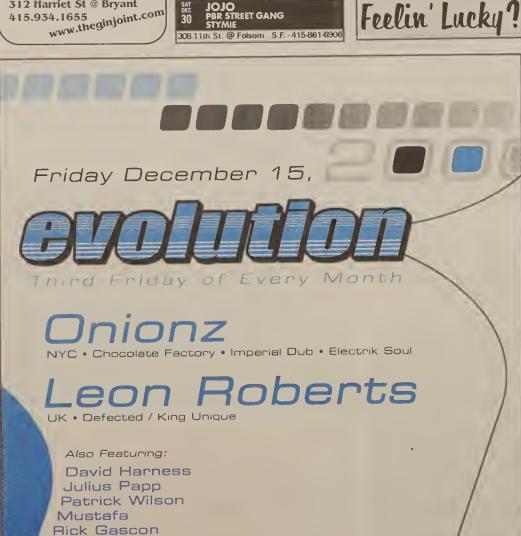
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• \$15 till 11PM-\$20 after

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Bardia

21 and up

#### Saturday 16

From page 87

Bay Area

Moh Alileche Group Albatross, 1822 San Pablo, Berk; (510) THE BIRD. 9pm. Christmas Jug Band Freight and Salvage.

Piedmont Bluegrass and Jam Cato's Ale

Reggae Angels Ashkenaz. 9:30pm, \$10. Betsy Rose La Peña Cultural Center.

Schwenke and Nilo La Peña Cultural Center.

#### **Dance clubs**

Backflip 10pm-2am, \$5. House music. Bas 9:30pm-2am. House, salsa, and club

Blue Amnesia. 9pni-2am, \$3-5. Downtempo, jazz, and house with DJs Seven, Sol, and

Ergol.

La Belle Epoque Top. 10pm-2am. Drum 'n' bass and 2-step with rotating residents.

Contrast Blind Tiger, 787 Broadway; 788-4020. 10pm-2am. House music.

Doublebarreled 26 Mix. 9pm-2am, \$5. House music with rotating residents.

Eklektic Cat Club. 10pm-3am. Drum 'n' bass

with rotating residents and guests Renegade Hardware UK.

Future Roots Movido Lounge, 200 Fillmore; 934-8637. 9pm. With Kevin and Huckster. Groove Kitty Glas Kat. 9:30pm-2am. House music, trip-hop, and rare grooves with

Hit Parade Nickie's BBO. 9pm-2am. Kevin HIT Parade Nickies BBQ, 9pn-2ani. Kevin and George spin disco, funk, and soul. House and Groove Temple Bar, 600 Polk; 979-9994. 9pn-2ani. With Beetroot, Spork, Conormac, Aqua Funk, and guests. Lifted Soul HiFi. 9pni. Deep house with

Dwight Johnson.

Menagerie Club Six. 10pm-2am. R&B and house with JB, Mike, Chris, and guests.

Metronome Ballroom 1830 17th St; 252-9000. 9pm-midnight, \$6-8. Holiday swing party with DJ Beth Bellamy. Mexican Bus Meet at Chevy's, 201 Third St;

543-8068. 9:15pm, \$38, reservations required. 'S0s style bus tour of several local salsa clubs. Next Saturday Kate O'Briens. 8pm-Iam. With Von and Ruh-son.

Opus Iron Horse, 19 Maiden Lane; 364-1892. 9:30pm-2am, \$10. Urban grooves and house with Dave Gillis, Jojo Tran, Ben Doren, Reda, and guests

Other Whirled Endup. 6am-4pm. With Nobel, Vince, Christine, and Daniel.
Oushaya VSF, 278 11th St; (800) 581-2107.

9pm-2am, \$15. Release Ten 15 Folsom. 10pm, \$20. With res-

ident Deep Dish.
Remedy Big Heart City. 9pm-4am. House,

soul and R&B. San Francisco 354 11th St; 863-5964. 9pm.

With rotating residents Lele, Dano, JZ,

David Coleman, and Sen-sei.

Speed 1028 Geary; 430-2190 ext. 1374. 9pm-2am. Hip-hop, R&B, and soul with Mind Motion and Franzen.

Subterra Ten 15 Folsom. 10pm-6am. With resident Tom Thump.

Sub Zero Sno-Drift. 10:30pm-4am. House and UK garage with resident Sean Ferguson. Supastar Sacrifice. 10pm-2am, \$5. With

Technology Space 550. 10pm-6am, \$15-20. With Kevin Saunderson, Barry Weaver, and several others

Universe Club Townsend. 10pn1-4am, \$14. House music with David Harness and guest

Bay Area

Ain't Dead Yet Driftwood, 1313 Park, Alameda; (510) 522-5141. 8pm-2am, \$5. Gothic and industrial with Christine Death, Cutter, and Kermit.

400 Club 400 29th St, Oakl; (510) 261-1108.

9pm-2am. DJ dancing. Gravity Club Fusetti. 10pm. Funk, R&B, soul, and house.

Platforms Zazoos, 15 Embarcadero West, Jack London Square, Oakl; (510) 869-1317.

Rimshot Bench and Bar, 120 11th St; (510) 839-0580. 9pm, \$6-8. With Mulatto E., Chris Johnson, Naughtyboy, and Sekou spinning hip-hop, R&B, house, and reggae

Continued on page 90





NOE VALLEY MINISTRY, 1021 SANCHEZ (near 23rd St.)

Sat., Dec 16, 8:15pm Hanukah Concert Cel DAVKA & JOSH KORNBLUTH

sical technique. ht **Josh Kornbtuth**, hailed as "one ds in the theater," will provide ories about past Hanukahs and

Sal., Dec 23, 8pm - The Fifth Annual Klezmeh! Festival with SF KLEZMER EXPERIENCE & JOSH KORNBLUTH at The JULIA MORGAN THEATER, 2460 College Ave., Berkeley \$16adv/\$18door

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• 10PM-2AM - HOUSE, URBAN GROOVES & TRANCE
"A TOY DRIVE FOR BAY AREA CHARITIES" HOSTED BY THE GLAS KAT & WITH DJ BRING A \$10 TOY AND GET IN FREE

SEQUENCE- Retro, Urban Groove & House

•5PM-7PM COMPLIMENTARY APPETIZER BUFFET TIL 7PM •6PM-10PM - 70'S & 80'S WITH DJ SOLO •10PM-2AM "SEQUENCE" URBAN GROOVE & HOUSE •HOSTED BY JASON FEBER, JEREMY & CLAUDIA DUENAS DJ SWITCH IN MAIN ROOM

• "GLITTER" HOUSE UPSTAIRS, HOSTED BY BOBECK, DJ NORM STRADLEY, BEN DOREN & CHARLES B

-9:30PM-2AM HOUSE MUSIC, TRIP HOP, RARE GROOVES & FASHION CROWD
 -HOSTED BY SEBASTIAN, ANDRE, TONY KUTULAS,

BEN DOREN & PETE

-DJ'S CARLOS (SF HOUSE COLLECTIVE), BEN DOREN, (MAIN ROOM)

SEVENS, SOL (FRONT LOUNGE)

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#### Saturday 16

#### rom page 89 Classical

Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys with Drches**tra** Grace Cathedral, 1100 California; 762-2277 4pm, \$12-50. Through Sun/17. See Fri/15. Pocket Dpera California Palace of the Legion of Honor, Florence Gould Theatre, Lincoln Park; 575-1102. 2pm, \$12-20. The chamber opera company performs a special one-hour version of Mozart's The Magic Flute for

young people.
San Francisco Lyric Dpera Gershwin Theater,
Turk at Masonic; 921-7410. 2 and 7:30pm,
\$10-20. Through Sun/17. See Wed/13.
San Francisco Symphony Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness; 864-6000. 8pm, \$15-80. See Wed/13.

#### Bay Area

Terra Nova Consort First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing, Berk; (510) 528

1725. 8pm, \$19-22. The French early music ensemble makes its Bay Area debut.

#### sunday 17

#### Rock/blues/hip-hop

Bitesize, Smarties Cafe du Nord. 8pm, \$5. Blues jam Blue Lamp. 9:30pm. With Pimp

Cars Karaoke, Double Life Bottom of the Hill. 5:30pm, \$7. With all-you-can-eat BBQ

Crazy Town, Slaves on Dope, Shuvel Shm's. 8pm, \$10-12.

Diamond Ship Pier 23, 10pm.

Erase Errata Kimo's. 9:30pm, \$5. Gear Ireland's 32. 9pm.

Regl Harvey's blues jam Skip's Tavern. 4pni. With Thunder Blue

King Perkoff Band Saloon. 9:30pm.

Plough Hounds, Psychedelic Wedding Par-

Rebecca Riots, Rachel Garlin, Dianne Patter-

Pamela Rose Band Boom Boom Room.

Zachary Ross and Desolation Angels, Luce, P.C. Munoz Hotel Utah. 8:30pm. Virgil Shaw, Peter Salett Make-Out Room.

#### Bay Area

Bloodstone Kimball's East. 8 and 10pm,

Blues jam Eli's Mile High Club. 2pm. Caleb Klauder Sweetwater. 8:30pm. Jazz jam session, Walter Savage Bluesville,

Viv, Yellow 5 Blake's. 9:30pm, \$3.

#### Jazz/new music

Dorothy and Henry Piaf's. 11:30am-2:30pm. Mike Greensill Moose's. 7:30pm. With guests. Love Motel Rassellas. 6pm.

Dave Mathews Enrico's, 7pm Jason Myers Trio Houstons, 1800 Montgomery; 392-9280. 6pm. Also Mon/18. Bill Travis Drchestra Top of the Mark. 8:30pm, \$6.

#### Bay Area

Kit Clayton, Thomas Day, Boris Hauf Tuva Space, 3192 Adeline, Berk; (510) 444-3595.

Martine Fierro Quartet Fourth Street Tavern.

opm. Jazz jam session Bluesville. 8pm. Mark Little Plymouth United Church of Christ, 424 Monte Vista, Oakl; (510) 654-

Pat Martino Trio Yoshi's. 2 and 8pm, \$5-20.

Michael Zilber-Andre Bush Group, Dori and

#### Folk/world/country

Tony McMahon Johnny Foley's, 9pm. Seisiün Plough and Stars. 7pm. With Jack Gilder, Junji Shirota, Kevin Bernhagen.

#### Bay Area

Acoustic Soul Anna's, 1801 University, Berk;

Avotcja and Lisa Cohen La Peña Cultural Center. 7pm, \$8. Lost Trio Cato's Ale House. 6pm.

Open mic Stork Club. 9pm.
'Starry Session' Starry Plough. 8pm. With

#### Dance clubs

Benefit for DJ Adnan Bas. 8pm-2am, \$10. Tag-team sessions with several DJs.

Bionic Top. 10pm-2am. With Solar, Mark E.

Quark, and Iz.

Club Havana Jelly's. 4pm, \$7. Christmas party with Julio Bravo and DJ Luis Medina. Disco Christmas Great American Music Hall. 6pm-midnight, \$30-35. With Jeanie Tracy, DJ

Frank Abraham, and others. **Dub Mission** Elbo Room. 9pm, \$5. Dub and roots with DJs Vinnie Esparza and Maneesh the Twister.

Energy Holy Cow. 9pm. Funky house with Norman Stradley, Pablo, and Demilo. Fabric Justice League. 9pm, \$7. Live music, spoken word, and DJs.

Fallout Cellar. 8pm-2am, \$6-10. Jungle. Gasoline Stud. 10pm-3am, \$5. With resident DJs Enemy, Tom Silk and Pete Stall spinning hard house, hard-NRG and technology

Homestyle: The Integration Project 2174 Market; 595-9959. 9pm. Urban music, social dancing, and jam sessions.

Magnitude 8.0 N'Touch Dance Club, 1548 Polk; 444-8413. 8pm-2am. With Jack Rojo, Lambchop, Shawn Perry, and Derek. Metronome Ballroom 1830 17th St; 252-9000.

-8pm, \$5. Jitterbug dance party. 8-11pm,

5-8pn, \$5. Interbug dance party. 8-11pm, \$5-8. Salsa night.

Pleasuredome Club Townsend. 9pm-3:30am, \$7. With Neil Lewis and Michael Mangiaforte.

Punk Mad Dog in the Fog. 9pm.

Rebirth 330 Ritch. 10pm. Soul and hip-hop with Henry, Joe Quixx, Kevvy Kev, and Will.

Recliner Hush Hush Lounge. 7pm-midnight, \$2-5. Downtenme archives the back to the first the second of the second of

\$2-5. Downtempo, ambient dub and house with Bambi, Dante, and Lior.

Reggae Sundaze Nickie's BBQ. 9pm-2am. Ras David I spins reggae

Continued on page 92

XFACTOR PRODUCTIONS IS PROUD TO PRESENT... a multi level extravaganza! live performance by funky soul sensation Ledisi with Anibade

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Brit Pop/Mod/Indie

THURSDAY Brit Pop/Mod/ 12/14 **POPSCENE** DJs Aaron Axelson & Jeremy,

FRIDAY Flashbacks/Worldbeal/Salsa 12/15 **LAVA LOUNGE** DJs Billy Vidal & Guests

ODDBALL

SUNDAY 12/17

Soul/R & B REBIRTH W/DJ Henry & Guests

Reggae Dancehall Christmas Party FATCAT DJs Toks, Kirk & Wisdom

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06:00pm-10:00pm aub\_trak heppy hour with minimal techno and electro

10:00pm-2:00em mosaic with residents Bre-Ad, Tomas, Mike Bee & Joe Rice

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s.m.a.r.t. BAZAAR

\$5 % goes to SF charities

December 16 Saturday

09:00pm-02:00em N'ICE end a.m.a.r.t.
Official party for the efternoon bazaar
featuring special guest DJs

Holmar Filipason (NICE, Centro Fly, NYC) Greham (NICE, DIESEL, NYC)

Join Holmer end Graham es they bring the N'ICE vibe to the s.m.a.r.t. collective Featuring surprise guest DJs too!, \$8

December 17 \_Sunday

09:00pm-02:00am A tribute to Sagittittarians hosted by Kristen

Gabriel Rena (Soulstice)

Mauricio (Neked Music) & more!

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on view in the galleries thru 12/15 some assembly



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music calendar

k, jazz, folk/world, dance clubs & classical rock

Sunday 17 From page 90

Spundae Ten 15 Folsom. 10pm-5:30am, \$5.

With rotating DJs. Stargate City Nights. 9pm-2:30am, \$12-15 Trance, techno, house, and jungle with DJ D and others.

Stone Cold Chillin' Movida Lounge, 200 Fill-more; 934-8637. 6pm. With Woo and Maz spinning downtempo, drum 'n' bass, and 2-

step garage.

Sushi 26 Mix. 3:30-10pm, \$5. Girls club with resident DJ Gray.

resident DJ Gray.
T-Dance Endup. 6am-2am. With resident DJs.
Tonle HiFi. 9pm-2am, \$7. House music with
Eric Erickson and Carlitos.
Tripp Beale Street Bar and Grill, 133 Beale;

543-1961. 6pm-2am, \$5-8. With rotating res-

Bay Area

Club Fusetti 10pm. World beat, reggae, and house with Ruben.

400 Club 400 29th St, Oakl; (510) 261-1108. 9pm-2am, Salsa.

Oakland Reggae Sundays Eli's Mile High Club. 8pm. With DJ Namane and guest

Tercer Domingos Bird Kage, 4822 Telegraph, Oakl; (510) 655-0300. Noon-6pm.

#### Classical

Alexander String Quartet San Francisco State University, Creative Arts Building, McKenna Theatre, 1600 Holloway; 338-1358. 3pm. The Quartet gives a U.S. premiere performance of Ramaz Gahokidze's May Pole Dancer, in addition to playing other compositions. Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys with Drchestra Grace Cathedral, 1100 California: 762-2277. 4pm, \$12-50. See Fri/1S.
Philip Nicol San Francisco Brewing Company,

155 Columbus; 434-3344. 3pm. The pianist

San Francisco Lyric Opera Gershwin Theater, Turk at Masonic; 921-7410. 2pm, \$10-20. See

Vytenis Vasyliunas St. Mary's Cathedral, 1111 Gough; 567-2020 ext 213. 3:30pm. The organist gives a recital.

Bay Area

College of Marin Sinfonia College of Marin, Fine Arts Theater, 835 College, Kentfield; (415) 485-9460. 3pm, \$5. The Sinfonia performs works by Silvestre Revueltas and Richard Wagner.

Navarro Trio St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College, Berk; (510) 584-5946. 3:15pm, \$7-16. The trio — violinist Jeremy Constant, cellist Rachuy Brindel, and pianist Marilyn Thompson — performs works for trios by Ned Rorem, and Felix Mendelssohn.

#### monday 18

#### Rock/blues/hip-hop

Bachelors Saloon, 9:30pm. Ian Brennan Show Brainwash, 9pm. Chubby Freeze Ireland's 32, 9pm.
'Holiday Hoot' Cafe du Nord, 9pm, \$5. With Eric Shea, Molly Tuttle, and guests. Little Fuzzy Make-Out Room. 8:30pm, \$6. Open mic Skip's Tavern. 7pm. With Regi

Sidewinder Boom Boom Room. 9:15pm, \$3. Velvet Acid Christ, Haujobb, din fiv Slim's.

Viv, Til' Seven Years Pass Dver Him, Norbert Bottom of the Hill. 9pm, \$5. Open mic Hotel Utah. 7:30pm. With Dayla

Bay Area

'Blue Monday Jam' Blake's. 9:30pm, \$3. With the Steve Gannon Band.

Country Pete McGill and friends A&C Club,

1950 San Pablo, Oakl; (510) 893-4100. 9pm.

#### Jazz/new music

Hal Bigler San Francisco Brewing Company, 155 Columbus; 434-3344, 8pm. Marti Eggers Pier 23. 5pm.

Dick Fregulia One Market Restaurant, Ezra Gale Trio North Star Restaurant, 288

Kevin Gibbs and Ruth Davies Moose's, 8pm.

'Monk's Music' Simple Pleasures Cafe. 8pm. Beebe Price Enrico's. 7pm. With Larry O'Leno and John Clark.

Bay Area

Helene Davis Café Arrivederci, 11 G St, San Rafael; (415) 897-7313. 5:45pm, \$7. Dragonfly Anna's, 1801 University, Berk; (510) 849-2662. 8pm. Paul Hanson Group Yoshi's. 8 and 10pm, \$10.

See 8 Days a Week, page 74.

Jazz improv jam session Black Dot Cafe,

2330 International, Oakl; (510) 533-6629.

Tim Price Big Band 19 Broadway. 9:30pm.

#### Folk/world/country

Acoustic open mic Blue Lamp. 9:30pm. Liza Silva y Voz Do Brazil Top of the Mark. 8:30pm, \$6.

Bay Area

'Ceili' Starry Plough. 9pm. Sean Hannan Fourth Street Tavern. 9:30pm.

#### Dance clubs

Club Dread Justice League. 9pm, \$10. Reggae

Funk Motel Dalva, 3121 16th St; 252-7740. 10pm-2am. 60s and 70s funk with Daniel

Grateful Dead Jams Nickie's BBQ. 9pm-2am.
Dark Star Dan plays rare Grateful Dead tracks.
Joy Liquid, 2925 16th St; 289-6833. 8pm-2am, \$2. Progressive house with DJ Travis. Rockin' Java 1821 Haight St; 831-8842. 7pm.

Hip-hop and open mic.

Slapbass Movida Lounge, 200 Fillmore; 934-8637. 9pm. Jazz, soul, and funk with DJ Emerson.

Emerson.
Smoove Blind Tiger, 787 Broadway; 7884020. 9pm-2am. House music.
Star Lounge Up and Down Club. 10pm-2am,
\$5. DJ Henry and guests spin soul, dance-

hall, and hip-hop.

Tranquility Base 26 Mix. 9pm-2am. Ambient sounds with DF Tram and guests.

Tranqullo Annesia. 10pm-2am. Drum 'n' bass, downtempo, and abstract hip-hop with

Kamahele, Presha, and G.A.S. Vroom El Rio. 8pm-midnight. Punk, funk,

#### tuesdav 19

#### Rock/blues/hip-hop

'Divabands' Red Devil Lounge. 8:15pm, \$5. With Liz Pisco, Jezebel, and Jessica Star. DJ Q-Bert Justice League. 9pm, \$20. Drizzoletto Brainwash, 80 Drunk Horse, Totimoshi, Black Queen Bottom

of the Hill. 9pm, \$6. Andrew Freeman Band Blue Lamp. 9:30pm.

Lisa Kindred Saloon. 9:30pm.
Dscar Myers' Bluesbeat Boom Boom Room.

9:15pm, \$1. Open mic El Rio. 7:30pm. Psychokinetics, Kooken and Hoomen Cafe du

'New Roots to Hip-Hop' Last Day Saloon. 9pm, \$5. With Felonious.

Beth Waters Band, Natasha Miller, Vanessa

Lowe, Shelley Doty Hotel Utah. 8:30pm.

Bay Area

Dr. John Yoshi's. 8 and 10pm, \$24. Faraway Brothers Fourth Street Tavern.

Local Drinkers, My Familiar. Blake's. 9pm, \$3. R.J. Mischo and the Red Hot Blues Band by

#### Tim Uzilevsky 19 Broadway. 9:30pm Jazz/new music

Crying High Butterfly. 10pm. Ezra Gale Trio Amnesia. 9pm. Mark Little Crocker Galleria, 50 Post; 393-1505. 11pm, With Scott Foster Night of Serious Drinking Bruno's. 9pm. Sy Perkoff Enrico's. 7pm. Lavay Smith and Her Red Hot Skillet Lickers

#### Folk/world/country

Top of the Mark. 8:30pm, \$6.

Acoustic music night Mad Dog in the Fog. pm. With Earthcat and Jody. Entre Nos Elbo Room. 9pm, \$6



SEANCE • Dennise, Martel, Nabiel - DJs Foxxee, Franky Boissy and Didje Kelli spin internationally flavored beats 2-step and house • It's a spiritual thing • 9:30pm · 2am

Body & Soul • Reda & Almir bring you Body & Soul featuring the latest in deep grooves and jazzy vocal house . Be prepared to move . 10:00pm . 2am

Dec. 15 • - Mauricio - soulful vocal house Join us for Poolside Happy Hour on Fridays from 5-8

Dec. 16 • Anita Lofton and Tom Thump

F#@! Tuesdays • Spinning an eclectic mix of breakbeats, soul, and 80s.



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MaraReggae Grooves Galia Bar and Restauraut, 2565 Mission; 587-3907. 9:30pm, \$5. Seisiun Plough and Stars. 7pm. With Suzanne Cronin and friends.

#### Bay Area

Motordude Zydeco Ashkenaz. 9pm, \$8. Open mic Anna's, 1801 University, Berk; (510) 849-2662. 8pm. Open mic Starry Plough. 7:30pm. Soukous Stars Bluesville, 8:30pm

#### Dance clubs

Asia Africa Arabia Nickie's BBO, 9pm-2am, DJ Cheb I Sabbah spins a blend of internaonal music.

tional music.

Coolin' Blind Tiger, 787 Broadway; 788-4020.

9pm-2am. With TJ and guest DJs.

Down There 26 Mix. 9pm-2am. Hip-hop and downtempo with residents Monkey and Stef. Fury Cat Club. 9pm.

Impulse An Sibin, 1176 Sutter; 929-1992.

9:30pm-2am. With J-Bot, Guthrie, and others suimput techno

ers spinning techno. Karamba Glas Kat. 9:30pnt-2am. Live salsa

Kulture Rawlinde II, 280 7th St; 820-1621.

9pm. House music.
Low Down Grooves Top. 7-10pm. With DJs
Schnezzy, Erney, Damo, Nick, and Culam
spinning downtempo, hip-hop and funk.
Node Powl A Cocktail Lounge. 9pm-2am. Indie rock and electronica with Thorsten Sideboard and guests.

Phuturo Top. 10pm-2am, \$5. Drum'n' bass with the Phunkateck crew.

Soul Samba Dalva, 3121 16th St; 252-7740.

10pm-2am. Latin heats with El Super Chente, Hat Trick Jonny, and Asti Spumanti.

Stylus Movida Lounge, 200 Fillmore; 934-8637. Synta Movina Lounge, 200 Fininger, 934-865 9pnt. DJ B-Love spins hip-hop and reggae. Taboo Liquid, 2925 16th St; 289-6833, 9pnt-2am, \$3. House music with David Harness. Trancefusesion Fuse, 493 Broadway; 788-2706. 6-10pm. With MP, Soulkid, and Ara. Wax Sacrifice. 10pm-2am, \$5. Soul music

#### Bay Area

Club Fusetti 9pm. Hip-hop and R&B with

with DJs Wisdom, Pause, and Sake One.

Mad Hatter Bench and Bar, 120 11th St; (510) 496-6000 ext. 120. 9pm-2am, \$3-5. Under-

ground dance music. Ruby Room 132 14th St, Oakl; (510) 444-7224. 10pm-2am. Punk rock

#### Classical

Jonathan Dimmock Bank of America Center, A.P. Giannini Auditorium, 555 California; 777-3211. 12:30pm. The harpsichordist performs a holiday concert of works from the 14th through 18th centuries.

## events

Events listings are compiled by Mosi Reeves. See 8 Days a Week for information on how to submit items to the listings.

#### wednesday 13

#### Around town

'Freelancing for the Web' Media Alliance, 814 Mission; 546-6334. 7-9pm, \$10-15. Free-lance journalist Andrea Lewis moderates this panel discussion on the multitude of career opportunities in cyherspace.
'Girl's Nite' Brown Eyed Girl, 2999 Washing

ton; 409-0214. 7-9pm, free. Women are invited to take part in this presentation, fashion show, and party, hosted by the store's owners, Loveletters, and SimplyShe.

**Becky Tarbotton** Ecology Center, 2530 San Pablo, Berk; (510) 548-2220 ext 233. 7pin, \$3-5. The coordinator for the International Society of Ecology and Culture discusses the destruction of Ladakhi culture in the Himalayas, and what can be done to curtail it

#### **Benefits**

Michael Chabon Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness; 392-4400. 8pm, \$17. The author of Wonder Boys is interviewed by Mitch Gold-man in this benefit for the San Francisco

KFOG's 'Concert for Kids' Masonic Auditorium, 1111 California; 478-2277. 7:30pm, \$27.50-100. This annual concert event features rock musicians Joe Jackson and John Hiatt. Proceeds benefit the Marines' Toys for

Ne Three Kings Union Square, Geary at Pow-ell; 334-7473. 8pm, donation. Through Thurs/14. Elvis impersonators Brian Bon-ham, George Frangides, and Karin T. Tucker, give kingly interpretations of Christmas songs; proceeds benefit the Mary Ann Wright Foundation, which feeds the home-less and purchases toys for children.

#### **Authors**

<sup>1</sup>Revolutionary Voices: A Multicultural Queer Youth Anthology' Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia; 282-9246. 7:30pm, free. Various contributors read selections from this

Joseph Sutton Bird and Beckett Books and Records, 278 Diamond; 586-3733. 7:30pm, free. The author reads from Morning Pages.

#### thursday 14

#### **Around town**

Brandi Chastain and Tisha Venturini Metreon, Discovery Channel store, 101 Fourth St; 442-0706. 6-8pm, free. The two stars of the United States Women's Soccer team sign au-

Third Thursday Simplicity Forum Berkeley Library, Claremont branch, 2940 Benvenue, Berk; (510) 549-3509. 7-8:30pm, free. This monthly forum discusses the Simplicity movement, which seeks to encourage to live, work, and consume less and focus on friends

#### **Benefits**

Rainbow Co-Op rock show Paradise Lounge, 308 11th St; 861-6906. 6pm-2am, \$5-10. This benefit concert for the YWCA Mission Girls Services features break dancing, costume, and go-go dancing contests, as well as per-formances by Zmrzlina, Three Day Stubble, Little Deaths, Dark Hollow Band, White Star Dairy, and several other bands.

We Three Kings Union Square, Geary at Powell; 334-7473. 8pm, donation. See Wed/13.

#### **Authors**

'It's About Time' Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia, 282-9246. 7-8:30pm, free. The Young Women's Editorial Team reads selections from the health book.

#### friday 15

#### **Benefits**

'POOR' magazine benefit 255 Ninth St; 863-6306. 7pm, free to \$10 sliding scale. See 8 Days a Week, page 74. Winter Solstice cocktail party Fort Mason

Center Firehouse, Marina at Buchanan; 267-1866. 6-9pm, \$10. The Coastside Habitat Coalition hosts this party and fund-raiser, which includes live music by Tattooed Love Dogs, and the Rusticators

#### saturday 16

#### Around town

'A Different Memory of World War II: The Resistance Art of Chiura Obata and the Struggle for Double Victory' M.H. de Young Memorial Museum, Golden Gate Park, 25 Tea Garden; 750-3600. 10am-noon, free with mu-seum admission. Professor Ronald Takaki, author Kim Kodani Hill, and artist Ruth Asawa lead a panel discussion in conjunction with the recent exhibit "Great Nature The Transcendent Art of Chiura Obata.

#### Bay Area

Basic composting workshop Lakeside Park, Oakland Garden, 666 Bellevue, Oakl; (510) 444-SOIL. 10am-noon, free. Learn how to compost your yard and kitchen waste during this hands-on class.

#### **Benefits**

Concert for Project Outreach Stork Club, 2330 Telegraph, Oakl; (415) 252-8455. 9pm, \$7-10. Blue Period, Barbee Killed Kenn, Tahloids, and Luce headline this benefit concert and raffle for Project Outreach, a grassroots agency that helps feed needy East Oak-

#### Authors

Charlene Anderson San Francisco Public Li-brary, Western Addition branch, 1550 Scott; 557-4277. 3pm, free. The author reads from Berkeley's Best BuddInst Bookstore.

#### sunday 17

#### Around town

Dance workshop Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts, 2868 Mission; 821-1155. 11am noon, 1-2pm, free, reservations required. For-mer San Francisco Ballet dancer Evelyn Cisneros leads this ballet workshop for families seeking to broaden their knowledge of ballet. Participants will receive a complimenta ry pass to a performance of the San Francis-co Ballet's Nutcracker on Sun/31.

New Valencia Hall open house New Valencia Hall, 1908 Mission; 864-1278. Noon-5pm, \$6.50. Radical Women and the Freedom Socialist Party host this year-end party, with poets, local activists, artists, musicians, and yourself as the invited guests.

#### Bay Area

BREAD fair Oakland YWCA, 1515 Webster, Oakl; (510) 336-2732. 1-5pm, free. This craft fair lets you use alternative "money," or BREAD, to trade for arts, crafts, and other

gifts for the holidays.
"Hallelujah Corner" Alice Art Center, 1428
Alice; (510) 238-7219. 8-10pm, \$5-15. The Imhotep Children Dance Ensemble hosts this cultural event. Performers include Louder than Words, members of the Oakland Ballet workshop, youth choir Love Center, jazz dancer Robert H. Johnson, and many others.

#### **Benefits**

Benefit for R2K activists Covered Wagon Saloon, 917 Folsom, 974-1585. 7pm, \$5. See 8 Days a Week, page 74.

'Probing the Annals of History' Eagle Tavern, 398 12th St; 777-5455. 3-6pm, \$8. The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Inc., and the GLBT Historical Society host this fundraiser. 'Teddy Care 2000' Plush Room, 940 Sutter;

885-2800. 7pm, \$15. This benefit for Shanti and San Francisco General Hospital features three December concerts. The third and final concert, hosted by singer Shane Kelly, stars Mary Cleere Haran, Cory Jamison, Mark Weigle, Sarah Hope and Matthew Liebowitz, Mychelle Colleary, and Cami

#### ituesdav 19

#### **Authors**

National Writers Union Authors Bird and Beckett Books and Records, 278 Diamond; 586-3733. 7:30pm, free. The writers read prose and hold an open mic session.

#### Bay Area

Susan Maxwell Skinner Sausalito Parks and Recreation Center, 420 Litho, Sausalito; (415) 289-4512. 6:30pm, \$5. The former press agent for Princess Diana discusses Diana, an English Rose.

#### attractions/kid stuff

California Academy of Sciences Golden Gate Park; 750-7145. Daily, 9ant-5pm, \$2-8.50 (free first Wed). The academy includes the

Continued on page 94

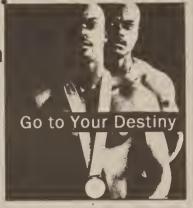
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Tuesday December 19 & Wednesday December 20 at 7:30 pm Catherine BOTT, soprano - Stephanie NOVACEK, alto Norman SHANKLE, tenor - Nathaniel WATSON, bass \$50 - \$30 - \$20 - \$10 (obstructed views)

#### Attractions/Kid Stuff

Steinhart Aquarium, the Morrison Planetar-ium, and the Natural History Museum; cur-

rent exhibits include "Venoms: Striking Beauties," and "At Home in Vanuatu: Tradi-tion in the West Pacific." Exploratorium 3601 Lyon; 563-7337. Wed,

10am-9pm; Thurs-Tues, 10am-5pm, \$2.50-9 (free first Wed). The museum features hands-on exhibits relating to art, science and human perception; current exhibits in-clude "The Changing Face of Women's Health," and "Traces of Time." Wed: An evening of light installations, performances, and screenings are held during "Moth Light," 7pm. Sat: Science teachers compete "Iron Science Teacher," noon-1pm. 'Peter Pan' Fort Mason Center, Building C,

Young Performer Theatre, Room 300; 346-5550. Sat-Sun, 1 and 3pm, \$5-8. The classic children's story is revived for the holiday

Randali Museum 199 Museum Way; 554-9600. Tues-Fri, 10am-5pm. \$6-7. This museum has exhibits and activities for kids. Exhibits include "Trash Bash," an exhibit that teaches how to conserve natural resources with illustrations and graphics, and "Essentially an Estuary: Our

Beloved Bay." Winter-break workshops begin Tues/19 and last through December; call the museum for details. Sat: "Saturdays are Special" continues with "Star Lab," 12:30pm, \$3.
San Francisco Maritime Park Fisherman's Wharf at Hyde Street Pier, Hyde at Jefferson, 556-3002. Daily, 10am-5pm, \$2-5. In the nation's only "floating" park, historical sailing ships are berthed at the pier for visitors to explore.

San Francisco Zoo Sloat at 45th Ave; 753-7080. Daily, 10am-5pm, \$3-11. Check out the zoo's newest attractions, a rare white alli-gator residing in "Bon Temps Swamp," a custom-made habitat, and a meerkat and prairie dog exhibit.

Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Gardens Golden Gate Park, Ninth Ave at Lincoln; 661-1316. Mon-Fri, 8am-4:30pm; Sat-Sun and holidays, 10am-5pm, free. The arbore-tum and gardens are located on 75 acres and boast a collection of 7,500 plants from around the world. Current exhibits include a tribute to Victorian women horticulture illustrators.

Zeum 221 Fourth St; 777-2800. Sat-Sun, 11am 5pm, \$5-7. The model arts and technology center features activities for kids and teenagers 8 to 18. Current exhibits include "Golf Zeum. which incorporates architectural art with

seven holes of miniature golf. Sat: Performance and sculptural artist Sha Sha Higby conducts a workshop, 1-4pm, \$8

#### Bay Area

Bay Área Discovery Museum 557

McReynolds, East Fort Baker near Sausalito; (415) 487-4398. Thurs, Tues, 9am-4pm; Fri-Sun 10am-5pm, \$6-7. The museum hosts learning labs, exhibits, and activities for children, including "Seuss," an interactive exhibit based on the work of the late chil-

dren's author.

Camron-Stanford House 1428 Lakeside Oakl; (510) 444-1876. Guided tours: Wed, 11-4pm, Stan, 1-5pm, and by appointment, \$1-4. This historic house museum, the last Victorian on Lake Merritt, boasts five re-

Chabot Space and Science Center 10000 Skyhne, Oakl; (510) 336-7300. Tues-Sat 10am-5pm; Sian, noon-5pm, \$5.50-8. This state-of-the-art science and technology facility houses an observatory, planetarium, and exhibits in a natural park setting.

Children's Fairyland USA 699 Bellevue, Oakl; (510) 452-2259. Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm, Sat-Sun, 10am-5pm, \$5. This 3-D storybook theme park features rides and entertainment theme park features rides and entertainment for kids, including a play for children, "The Blue Bird," I 1am, 2 and 4pm. Children who bring a new pair of socks for charity receive 50 cents off the price of admission. Sat-Sun: Blake Maxam presents an array of magic

'Hansel and Gretel' Berkeley Public Library, North branch, 1170 The Alameda, Berk; (510) 649-3943. Tues, call for time, free. Opera Piccola, an Oakland musical troupe, performs a short version of the Brothers Grimm classic for young children.

'Kids on the Block' Hall of Health, 2230 Shattuck, Berk: (510) 594-1564, Sat: 1:30 and Shattuck, Berk; (510) 594-1564. Sat: 1:30 and 2:30pm, free. Using puppets with cerebral palsy, blindness, and Downs syndrome, the educational puppet troupe performs a show that educates about the value of physical and mental difference. Lawrence Hall of Science Centennial Drive off Grizzly Peak Blvd, UC Berkeley, Berk; (510) 642-5132. Daily, 10am-5pm, \$3-7. The public science center features all types of exhibits, films, and activities for adults and children. Sat-Sun: Learn how creatures of the dark use their senses to navigate their environments in "Deep Dark Secrets," Noon,

Museum of Children's Art 560 Second St, Oakl; (510) 465-8770. Tues-Sat, 10am-5pm; Sun, Noon-Spni, free. This museum features children's art exhibits, art classes, workshops, and other resources for kids, including a new exhibit showcasing children's book illustrators, "Then and Now."

Oakland Museum of California 1000 Oak,

Oakl; 1-888-OAK-MUSE. Tues-Thurs, Sat, 10ain-5pm; Fri, 10am-9pm; Sun, 110011-5pm, \$4-6 (free second Sun). Current exhibits include "La Flor y la Calavera: Altars and Offerings for the Days of the Dead," "Secret ferings for the Days of the Dead," "Secret World of the Forbidden City: Splendors from China's Imperial Palace," and "Fired by Ideals: Arequipa Pottery." Sun: Author Steven T. Au reads from and signs copies of Beijing Odyssey, 3pm.

Oakland Zoo 9777 Golf Links, Oakl; (510) 632-9525. Daily, 10am-4pm, \$3.50-6.50. Parking \$3. More than 300 animals from around the world occupy 100 acres of land; check out the new Wart Hog exhibit.

Walter the Giant Storyteller Cody's Books, 1730 Fourth St. Berk: (510) 559-9500. Sat.

1730 Fourth St, Berk; (510) 559-9500. Sat, 10:30am-11:30am, free. The six-foot-sevenand-a-half-inch storyteller reads from some of the season's best books for children branch, 1901 Russell, Berk; (510) 649-3943. 2pm, free. The musical group gives a the-atrical, multilingual (English, Spanish, and Portuguese) performance for children and

## art

Art listings are compiled by Sarah Han, Because of space limitations, new art shows are listed the week they open (thereafter, shows are listed on a rotating basis), and we cannot list cafe exhibits. For information on how to submit listings to this section, see 8 Days a Week. Reviews are by Lindsey Westbrook and Megan Wilson

#### museums

Asian Art Museum Golden Gate Park (near 10th Ave at Fulton); 379-8801. Tues-Sun, 9:30am-5pm (first Wed, 9:30am-8:45pm; for the duration of "Golden Age," extended evening hours Thurs-Sat until 9pm). Regular admission: \$7, \$5 seniors, \$4 youths; "Golden Age" exhibit requires \$6-per-person surcharge
"Between the Thunder and the Rain: Chinese Paintings from the Opium War Through the Cultural Revolution, 1840-1979." More than 100 paintings, handscrolls, albums, and fans from a private collection. Through Jan 14, 2001.

Through Jan 14, 2001. California Historical Society 678 Mission; 357-1848, ext 14. Ties-Sat, 11am-5pm, \$3, \$1 seniors and students, free for five and under and members. "Cut and Paste: California Scrapbooks," Exhibit includes scrapbooks, diaries, and photo albums from the late 19th and 20th centuries. Through Dec 31. California Palace of the Legion of Honor Lincolin Park (near 34th Ave at Clement); 863-3330. Tues-Sun, 9:30am-5pm. \$7, \$5 seniors, \$4 for 12 to 17, free for 11 and under (free second Wed). Permanent exhibitions include a survey of art from the Renaissance to the

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## For the Holid ay s!

Jain SFMOMA in celebrating the seasan! SFMOMA presents the Bay Area's hattest jazz musicians performing live an Thursday evenings in December. All performances are from 6 to 8:45 p.m. in the Museum Atrium.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14 ANTON SCHWARTZ QUARTET THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

PATRICK GREENE TRIO

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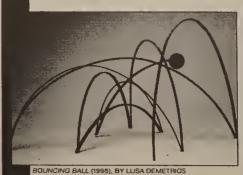
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## "A metaphoric journey through a dark forest to a beam of light and through failed relationships to the ascertion of courage, strength and self acceptance. - East Bay Express Precioth & 17th 6 som De aist Cyropm Healing Ritual and Drun Circle to follow Dance Mission Theater 3316 - 24th Street, San Francisco Info/Reservations: 415-550-7915

## **Llisa Demetrios** choice:

Through Fri/29, M Gallery

The intangible passage of time — and how to translate it into massive, solid-metal sculpture — continues to consume Llisa Demetrios's artistic energies. Working mainly in bronze, she has produced many different sculpture series over the last 10 years, and a representative sample of each is showing at M (formerly the Mill and Short Gallery). Demetrios lives in the Bay Area and comes from a distinguished artistic family; her grandparents, Charles and Ray Eames, were among the most important and productive designers of the 20th century, and her mother, Lucia Eames, is also a noted local sculptor and designer. Her five Portraits of My Father are the most powerful and visually complex of all the works in the show. This series is also the only one in which she clearly lets fly with violent emotions and makes explicit reference to her illustrious artistic family. To create the humanoid-crucifix forms, she used a combination of bronze and steel, two materials that mix about as well as water and oil. The steel forms the base of the figure, and the bronze dribbles over it, adhering to the surface but coagulating in uneven globs like some horrible skin disease, turning the form of her father into an awful portrait of Dorian Gray. The Doorway Series is Demetrios's most recent work. The basis of each sculpture in the series is a rectangular bronze doorway/threshold, through which abstract shapes are caught in the act of passing. The shapes almost resemble paper cutouts and recall both humanoid forms and swinging doors — frozen in time but also seemingly capable of movement. Also on exhibit is one of Demetrios's extremely popular garden sculptures, Bouncing Ball, in which she traces the path of a bronze ball with ribbons of bronze that cast sundial-like shadows on the ground and sway in the wind. While you're there, don't miss eight never-before-exhibited photographs by



Fan Ho, the awardwinning Asian American film producer. Part of a much larger body of work, these fabulous photographs document Hong Kong's street life of the 1950s and '60s. Thurs.-Sat., 1-5 p.m., 555 Sutter, S.F. (415) 398-3630. (Lindsey Westbrook)

modern era. "An American Focus: The Anderson Graphic Arts Collection." Almost

derson Graphic Arts Collection." Almost 200 prints, monotypes, and multiples go on display as part of the Anderson Graphic Arts Collection. Through Dec 31.

Cartoon Art Museum 814 Mission (at Fourth 5t); (415) CAR-TOON. Tues-Fri, 11am-5pm; Sat, 10am-5pm; Sun, 1-5pm, \$5, \$3 students and seniors, \$2 children. "Even More Stranger than You." The works of Brian Biggs, Lloyd Dangle, Jason Jägel, Jashel Stranger than You." The works of Brian Biggs, Lloyd Dangle, Jason Jägel, Isabel Samaras, Chris Ware, and Steven Weissman. See 8 Days a Week, page 74. "Selections from the Permanent Collection." Ongoing. M.H. de Young Memorial Museum 75 Tea Garden Drive, Golden Gate Park; 863-3330. Tuesaen Drive, colleen Gate Park, 863-330. Ites-Sun, 9:30am-5pm (first Wed, 9:30am-8:45pm). \$7, \$5 seniors, \$4 youths (free first Wed). "From Three Continents: Textile Ac-quisitions, 1996–2000." "Pan American Unity quistions, 1996–2000. Pan American Unity Exhibit: Exploring the Mural by Diego Rivera." Both exhibits through Dec 31. Exploratorium 3601 Lyon; 563-7337. Tues-Sun, 10am-5pm (Wed until 9pm). \$9, \$7 stu-dents and seniors, \$5 youth (free first Wed). "The Changing Face of Women's Health."
This exhibit includes video, art, and text.
Through Jan 1, 2001. "Traces of Time." Over
30 photographic images by William Neill. Through Jan 7, 2001.

Mexican Museum Fort Mason Center, Bldg D,

Marina at Laguna; 441-0404. Wed-Sun, 11am-5pm (first Wed, noon-7pm). \$4, \$3 students and seniors (free first Wed). "Chicanos en Mictlán: Día de los Muertos in California." Through a survey of the history of the Day of the Dead observances in California, the Mexican Museum traces the evolution of the holiday and its transplantation to the United States. Through Dec 31.

United States: I hrough Dec 31.

Museo Italo Americano Fort Mason Center,
Bldg C, Marina at Laguna; 673-2200. WedSun, noon-5pm (first Wed, noon-7pm). \$3, \$2

students and seniors; free for 11 and under
and on first Wed. "Life and Form." Exhibition of Bay Area student sculptures.

Through Jan 4, 2001.
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art 151 Third St; 357-4000. Fri-Tues, 11am-6pm; Thurs, 11am-9pm (closed Wed). \$9, \$6 se-niors, \$5 students, 13 and under and numbers mors, 35 students, 15 and under and members free (free first Tues; half-price Thurs, 6-9pm). "Celebrating Modern Art: The Anderson Collection." More than 330 paintings, sculptures, and works on paper will take up three floors of gallery space in this selection of works from the Anderson collection. "Double Feature: New Works by Nick Crowe and Gary Hill." Two media artists look at how technology affects human experience. Both exhibits through Ian 15, 2001

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts 701 Mission; 978-ARTS. Tues-Wed and Sat-Sun, 11am-6pm; Thurs-Fri, 11am-8pm. \$6, \$3 seniors, students, and youths (free first Thurs, 5-8pm).

"Tom Friedman, 00." A 10-year survey of works by the American artist. Through Jan 28, 2001. "Juvenilia." Through Jan 28, 2001.

Bay Area

Berkeley Art Center 1275 Walnut, Berk; (510) 644-6893, Wed-Sun, noon-5pm. "Against All Odds: Talent, Ingenuity, and Disability." Works by artists with disabilities. Through Sat/16. by artists with disabilities. Through Sat/16. Mills College Art Museum 5000 MacArthur, Berk; (510) 430-2164. Tues-Sat, 11am-4pn; Sun, noon-4pm. Free. "Tom Holland: The First Five Years' Work." Expressionism by the Berkeley-based artist. Through Sat/23. Museum of Anthropology 103 Kroeber Hall, no 3712, UC Berkeley; (510) 643-1193. Wed-Sun, 10am-4.30pm. "Tzintzuntzan, Mexico: Photographs by George Foster." The UC Sun, 10am-4:30pm. "Tzintzuntzan, Mexico: Photographs by George Foster." The UC Berkeley professor emeritus of anthropology exhibits his photographs, collected from 1945 to 1999. "Sites Along the Nile: Rescuing Ancient Egypt." Exhibit includes nearly 600 objects, including jewelry, pottery, and sculpture. Both exhibits through June 30, 2001. Museum of Children's Art 538 9th St, Oakl; (510) 465-8770. Ties-Sat, 10am-5pin; Sun, noon-5pin. Free. "The Legacy of Chernobyl — Children's Artwork from Ukraine." The museum presents paintings of artists ages museum presents paintings of artists ages seven to 13 from Chernyachov, a city 50 miles

seven to 13 from Chernyachov, a city 50 miles from Chernobyl. Through Fri/15. UC Berkeley Art Museum 2625 Bancroft, Berk; (510) 642-0808. Wed, Fri-Sun, 11am-5pm; Thurs, 11am-9pn. 36, \$4 semiors and youths. "Wolfgang Laib/MATRIX 188 Pollen from Pine." Installation created using pine tree pollen. Through Sun/17. "Amazons in the Drawing Room." Works by Romaine Brooks. Through Jan 16, 2001. "Amazons in the Drawing Room," is a traveling retrospective devoted to painter Romaine Brooks, whose early-20th century canvases depict the artist's own marginalized yet moneyed milieu: a European lesbian demimonde. While some of her works may be too heavily rooted in portrait convenmay be too heavily rooted in portrait conventions of her time to remain fresh, others are classic works that confidently realign art history with queer history. Shirin Neshat's video installation *Turbulent* creates an uneasy musical dialogue between men and women in tracal dialogue between men and women in tra-ditional Islamic culture. German artist Wolf-gang Laib's gorgeous floor installation features pale yellow pine pollen sifted on the cement floor; seen from above (which is the only way you can see it), the large, monochromatic rec-tangle seems almost to levitate transcendently — though it may spark unwarranted terror in allergy sufferers. (Glen Helfand)

## **|qalleries**|

#### Opening

Art Hut 626 Clayton, Apt D; 437-0949. Call for appt. "Nutty!," eight artists exhibit their

idiosyncratic work (reception Sat/16, 6-

8pm). Dec 16-Jan 6, 2001. Aurobora Press 147 Natoma; 546-7880. Mon-Sat, 11am-5pm. Monotypes with drawing, by Wes Mills. Through Sat/16. "Review 2000," recent prints of various artists. Dec 18-Jan 31, 2001

Bayview Opera House Ruth Williams Memorial Theater, 4705 Third St, 643-7292. Mon-Sat, noon-5pm. "The Human Family Tree/A Walk Through Paradise, an environmental installation," exhibition of the works of Heidi Hardin with a soundtrack by Jonathan Sacks (reception Tues/19, 3-7pm). Dec 19-Jan 14, 2001.

Jan 14, 2001.

John Berggruen 228 Grant; 781-4629. Mon-Fri, 9:30am-5:30pm; Sat, 10:30am-5pm. "A Decade of Sculpture: 1990–2000," works by Stephan Balkenhol; new sculptures by Roseline Delisle. Both exhibits through Jan 27,

Friday the Thirteenth West 331 Potrero: 863-2285. Thurs-Sat, 1-5pm. Recent paintings by Jimmy Lee Sudduth. Dec 14-Jan 27,

SomArts 934 Brannan; 552-2131. Tues-Sat, noon-4pm. "Art Soirée Ill," works by Dominic Alleluia. Fri/15, 5:30-8:30pm. "9 Lives," paintings, prints, and silk screens by various artists. Through Sat/23.

Bay Area

Crucible 1036 Ashby, Berk; (510) 843-5511. Mon-Fri, noon-10pm; Sat-Sun, noon-6pm. "Catalyst: A Juried Exhibition of Crucible Artists," a viewing of art by students, past and present. Through Jan 31, 2001.

#### Ongoing

Academy of Art Gallery 625 Sutter; 274-2229. Mon-Fri, 9am-10pm; Sat-Sun, 10am-5pm.
"Mirrors: A Photographic Reflection on the Human Figure and Ourselves," works by Gary Miller. Also prints, sculptures, paintings, and mixed media by more than 20 graduating Academy of Art College seniors (reception Thurs/14, 6-9pm). Both exhibits

Albers 760 Market, 391-2111, Wed-Sat. 10am-2pm. "Cape Dorset Group Paintings," acrylic paintings on paper by four Inuit artists. Through Sat/16.

Alliance Française 1345 Bush; 775-7755. Mon-Thurs, 9am-9pm; Fri, 9am-7pm; Sat, 9am-1pm. Acrylic on canvas by Joëlle de

A.O.V. 3328 22nd St; 431-8341. Thurs-Fri, 5-8pm; Sat, noon-8pm. "Fuzzyland," a multi-media installation by Julio Morales. See

Eleonore Austerer 540 Sutter; 986-2244. Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm. Bronze sculptures by Felipe Castañeda. Ongoing. "Henry Moore, Works on Paper," over 30 works from the

British artist, "La Ballade du Soldat," images of war by Max Ernst. Through Sat/16.
California College of Arts and Crafts Logan Galleries, 1111 Eighth St. 551-9210. Mon, Wed-Sat, 11am-5pm; Tues, 11am-9pm. "i live here," Laurent Cilluffo, Kim DeMarco, John Ritter, Marina Sagona, and Takeshi Tadatsu present illustrations of their hometowns; "Maeda@Media," digital books, posters, and new sculpture by John Maeda. Both exhibits through Sat/16.

Campbell-Thiebaud 645 Chestnut; 441-8680.

Tues-Fri, 11am-5pm; Sat, noon-4pm. "Work from the Family Collection," by Charles Howard, 1899-1978. Through Sat/16. Chinatown Community Arts Program Gallery 750 Kearny, Third fl; 957-1146. Tues-Sat, 10ain-4pin. Chinese paintings and calligraphy. Through Fri/15.

Continued on page 96

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## 'Fuzzyland'

Through Jan. 6, 2001, a.o.v.

warm glow radiates from the red neon sign that reads Fuzzyland on the window of a.o.v. The seductive marker offers a tempting invitation to the possibilities that he within the cloaked space, made, the damage of the formally cool — think of a peep show that teases its viewers to come closer, closer, closer, STOP. Twelve 10-by-8-compared inches apart, line one wall of the gallery fers a tempting invitation to the possibilities that lie within the cloaked space. Inside, the atmosphere is intimate yet and-one-half-inch black-framed ballpoint drawings on white vellum, spaced inches apart, line one wall of the gallery to compose part two of Julio Morales's Fuzzyland series (the first was exhibited at Terrain Gallery earlier this year). The shadowy atmosphere is reinforced by spotlight bulbs placed individually behind each drawing, giving a faint lumi-

nescence to the work. Rendered in simple blue lines, the stylized drawings at first glance look like illustrations from a 1950s children's book. However, Uncle Arthur's Bedtime Stories this is not. Morales's figures --- never whole but rather dismembered or incomplete, never individualized but always generic (though the simplified bodies are all boys and men) - seem more like pages from NAMBLA's how-to S-M guide. A disembodied face gagged at the mouth floats in isolation; figures participate in gestures that allude to scrubbing the floor, washing the dishes, and masturbating. Of course, the vague quality of these psychological pantomimes only adds to their perversity. The drawings, though sparse, have been layered with altered digital scans, suggesting that the prevailing mood of anxiety that quietly infuses these works isn't exclusively dedicated to the pictorial scenarios, but concems the very practice of drawing, in its search for self-definition. The choice to exhibit the work of Morales, an established San Francisco artist, is a bit of a deviation for this alternative gallery space, which has been supporting emerging artists for the past two years. However, the choice nf venue for this body of work couldn't be more appropriate. Thurs.-Fri., 5-8 p.m.; Sat., noon-8 p.m., 3326 22nd St., S.F. (415) 431-8341. (Megan Wilson)









art

**Galleries** 

calendar museums & galleries

Galería de la Raza 2857 24th St; 826-8009.

by Alma Lopez. Through Thurs/14.

Hackett-Freedman 250 Sutter, Fourth sl; 362-

7152. Tues-Fri, 10:30am-5:30pm; Sat, 11am-5pm. "Modern Masters, Works on Paper," by

several artists. Through Jan 27, 2001. Recent

works of Karen Horn and Skip Steinworth. Through Dec 30. Hespe 1764 Union; 776-5918. Wed-Sat,

11am-6pm; Sun, noon-5pm. "Stack Paintings," mixed media by Byron Spicer.

Through Wed/13.

jennjoy 49 Geary, Fourth fl; 398-2040. TuesSat, 11an-5pn. "[climax]," the works of
Sheila Pepe, Jessica Snow, Jonathan Hammer, Bill Durgin, Julian Hoeber, Amy Elling-

son, Jason Kleidosty, Twan Janssen, and Veronica Dejesus. Through Jan 27, 2001.

Robert Koch 49 Geary; 421-0122. Tues-Sat, 10:30am-5:30pm. "Holiday Show," works by Tom Baril, Debra Bloomfield, Lynn Geesaman, Josef Koudelka, and Wayne

Levin. Through Sat/23.

The Lab 2948 16th St; 864-8855. Wed-Sat, 2-

7pm. "New Sound, Light, and Sculptural Installations," by Amy Balkin, Brandon La-

Belle, and Tony Meredith. Through Sat/16. Limn Gallery 292 Townsend St; 977-1300. Tues-Fri, 10:30am-5:30pm; Sat, 11am-5:30pm. "Liu Xiao Dong and His Time," portraits by the modern Chinese painter.

Through Wed/13.



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San Francisco Women Artists Gallery 370 Hayes St; 552-SFWA. Tues-Sat, 11am-6pm; Thurs, 11am-8pm; 2nd and 3rd Sun, 1-4:30pm. "Celebrations," an all-media exhibit (reception Thurs/14, 5:30-7:30pm). Through Dec 30.

Space 743 743 Harrison St; 777-9080. Wed-Sat, noon-5pm and by appointment. "inVocation," new sculpture by Michelle Gregor. Through Sat/16.

Student Center Art Gallery Cesar Chavez Student Union, SFSU, 1650 Holloway; 338-2580. Mon-Wed, 10am-6pm; Thurs-Fri, 10am-3pm. "Honest Expressions," a benefit exhibition of children's artwork. Through Fri/15. 381g 381 Guerrero; 255-1821. Fri-Sun, noon 60m. "Two," an anniversary show with Dave

Kinsey, Nuda Rosch, and others. Through Takada 251 Post; 956-5288. Tues-Sat, 11am-5pm. "New Painting," work by mixed-media artist Nancy Genn. Through Sat/16.

Two of Hearts Studio 4147 19th St: 864-5551. Call for hours. Holiday Art Show. Through

Washington Square Gallery 1821 Powell; 291-9255. Wed-Thurs, noon-7pm; Fri-Sat, noon 5pm. "Works on Paper and Other Small Works," by West Coast artists. Through

Sun/17 James Willis/Larry Evans 77 Geary; 398-

7545. Tues-Sat, 11am-5:30pm. Exhibition of "tribal art." Through Sat/16.

Stephen Wirtz Gallery 49 Geary, Bankers Investment Building; 433-6879. Call for hours. Ulrike Palmbach transforms her materials
— felt, twine, thread, beeswax — into pieces whose conceptual perspective dances be tween the lyrical and the mundane, into a realm where the personal and the universal dovetail. *Inertia*, a large installation of felt objects in varying sizes, lies densely scattered across the gallery floor. Made from layers of blankets, the elements resemble tops that have been spun silly into a cozy oblivion. The rest of the show is composed of intriguing individual works. *Milk and Honey*, a large apparatus of two heavy pendulums crocheted from twine, drapes from the ceiling off a substantial wood hanger. There are also several spirited pieces that almost appear to be common items from the domestic realm. Like the others, these works toy with the viewer's perceptions of the proverbial and the strange. Through Sat/23. (Wilson)

#### Bay Area

Albany Community Center 1249 Marin, Albany; (510) 524-9283. Mon-Fri, 8am-5pm. "Art Happens at the Bulb," photography by Dan Robbin. Through March 1, 2001. Bing Gallery 2314 Telegraph, Oakl, (510) 625-0910. Sat-Sun, 1-5pm. A viewing of works by Susan Marie Freda and Rebecca Aviva Schwarz. Through Dec 31.

John F. Kennedy University Arts and Con-

sciousness Gallery 2956 San Pablo, Berkeley Business Center, Berk; (510) 649-0499. Mon-Fri, 11am-5pm. "Fourth Annual Faculty Exhibition," paintings of Fariba Bogzaran, Michael Grady, Leigh Hyams, Fred Martin, Jeremy Morgan, and Christine Peirano.

Through Jan 4, 2001.

Oliver Art Center California College of Arts and Crafts, 5212 Broadway, Oakl. (510) 653-8118. Mon-Sat, 11 am-5 pm (Wed, until 9



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Through Sat/16. Luggage Store 1007 Market; 255-5971. Wed-Sat, noon-5pm. "Short Cuts," a four-part series of short exhibitions (receptions Fri/15, 6-9pm; Mon/18, 7-10pm). Through M Gallery 555 Sutter, S.F. (415) 398-3630. Thurs-Sat, 1-5 pm. The works of Llisa Demetrios and Fan Ho. See Critic's Choice. THIS WEEK Seen On Conan & Letterman Meridian 545 Sutter; 398-7229. Tues-Sat, 11am-5:30pm. Brazilian artist Malu Fatorelli, who was born and raised in Rio de Janeiro, is trained in architecture, painting, communications, and image technology. Her current work introduces fragments from the past to the present place and expe rience. She works primarily in a technique called rubbing: Japanese paper is placed over a surface, and graphite is drawn across it to transfer the image. The result is a sensual journey that explores layers of corporeal memory and temporal strata. Across one all hang small, fragile sheets with the same Victorian architectural rubbing. The effect brings to mind china patterns. Also of note are a series of small paintings of decorative architectural elements in reds, pinks, blues, and grays arranged in an open grid. Through Sat/16. (Wilson) Micaela 334 Gough; 551-8111. Tues-Sat, 11am-7pm. Glass by Mitch Laplante and sculpture by Dan Das Mann. Through Wed/13.

Mission Cultural Center 2868 Mission; 821-1155. Tues-Fri, 11am-7pm; Mon and Sat, 11am-4pm. "Creativity Explored 2000," orks by adults with disabilities (reception 111 Minna Gallery 111 Minna; 974-1719.
Call for hours. "Novo Deus II," recent paintings by Doze Green. Through Jan 31, 2001.
Project Artaud 401 Alabama; 863-2141. Tues-Sat, 11am-5pm. "Fuzzylogic," Southern Exposure's 10th annual juried exhibition of

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stage calendar

pm). "Scanner" groups 11 international artists whose work somehow engages the ways in which digital technology is changing the course of image and object production. In the fine arts, there are different sorts of implications of using Photoshop-type tools. The show provides a fine opportunity to see Paul Pfieffer's Whitney biennial-storming pieces, which are fascinating, animated image loops culled from hundreds of digital stills. "Scanner" is a welcome project, yet the concentration on media does its own form of rerouting our perceptions to focus exclusively on their formal qualities. Through Sat/16. (Helfand)

## stage

Stage listings are compiled by Sarah Han. Performance times may change; call venues to confirm. Reviewers are Robert Avila, Kim Brooks, Rita Felciano, and Brad Rosenstein. Dance commentator is Sima Belmar. See 8 Days a Week for information on how to sub-mit items to the listings.

#### theater

#### **Opening**

La Pastorela Endiablada Instituto Familiar de la Raza, 2919 Mission; 255-2320. Free. Opens Fri/15, 7:30pm. Runs Fri, 7:30pm; Sat, 5:30pm. Through Sat/23. El Teatro de la Esperanza presents its contemporary rendition of the traditional Mexican shepherd's play.

#### Ongoing

The Beaux' Stratagem Magic Theatre, Fort Mason, Marina at Laguna; 749-2228. \$10. Wed/13, Sat/16, Mon/18, 8pm (also Sat/16, 2pm); Sun/17, 2 and 7pm. Jonathan Cullen directs the American Conservatory Theater's Masters of Fine Arts students in George Farquhar's restoration comedy.

quhar's restoration comedy.

Belèn — A Book of Hours Brava Theater Center, 2789 24th St; 641-7657. \$18-28 Wed/13-Sun/17, 8pm. See "Safe House," page 64.

The Cherry Orchard Shelton Theatre, 533

Sutter; 419-8368. \$15-29.50. Thurs-Sat, 8pm.

Through Fri/22. Oleg Liptsin directs Lighthouse Theatre's successful rendition of Chekhov's masternizes about the decline of Chekhov's masterpiece about the decline of the Russian leisured classes. Prescient in its time, the story — staged here with a fidelity that is pure but never rigid — casts a particular light on our own historical moment of Silicon-fueled social upheaval and cultural desiccation. Lively and expansive staging frees up some lovely performances from a very capable cast. Among them, Felecia Faulkner as Madame Ranevsky embodies all the restless enthusiasm and compassion of Chekhov's heroine, while John Amanson's Lopakhin simmers under a rubelike smile that recalls a character from Tennessee Williams. J. McMullen immediately endears to us Gaev, Ranevsky's sentimental brother, whose peculiar combination of cleverness and ineptitude marks him indelibly as the child of aristocracy. And Joe Cole delivers a performance as Pishchik that roars with a cattle rancher's boisterous charm. With fine performances across the board, this enjoy-able production provides lines and characters to muse over for days to come. (Avila) A Christmas Carol Geary Theater, 415 Geary; 749-2228. \$11-49. Tues-Sun, 7pm (also Sat-Sun, Tues/19, Thurs/21, Tues/26-Wed/27, 2pm). Through Wed/27. American Conservators. The steepe of the deart Conservators. tory Theater's staging of the classic Dickens Yuletide story of grumpiness, ghosts, and re-demption has been an S.F. tradition for two and half decades now, and with obvious reason: the alternately witty, scary, warm, and only mildly treacly adaptation by Laird Williamson and Dennis Powers hits just the right tone for broad, all-ages appeal. Scrooge is the only character allowed any real dramatic. depth, and Raye Birk returns (and again codi-rects with Candace Barrett) to deliver the disdain, fear, and ultimate heart that the role de-mands. He leads a mostly — but not uni-

formly - effective cast of local theater veterans and ACT Young Conservatory performers, who don't really have much to do beyond providing the backdrop for Scrooge's transformation; Michael Gene Sullivan as Scrooge's nephew, Fred, and Wilma Bonet in a few small roles notably inject some personality into the ensemble. The evening's highlights include Robert Morgan's lush period costumes and the haltingly haunting entrance of the ghost of Marley. (Ann Brody Guy) Debunking Love New Conservatory Theatre

Center, 25 Van Ness; 861-8972, 815-35. Wed-Sat, 8pm (also Dec 31, 2pm). Through Jan 6, 2001. In Prince Gomolvilas's play, Adam (Al-fredo Victorio), a successful writer of detective novels, searches for the meaning of love from an emotional landscape shaped by San Francisco identity politics. Sexual orienta-tion and race vie for Adam's loyalties as love interests Buddy (Robert Wu) and Tony (Steve Garland) try to spark a political commitment in this reluctant activist. Adam worries that his outing in the public eye will jeopardize the popularity of his white and decidedly straight private eye. The play tack-les weighty themes with a light touch, the source of its strengths and weaknesses. The script saddles some good dialogue with a clunky theme. Despite the stilted aspects, however, the play has genuinely enjoyable nowever, the play has genuinely enjoyable moments. The performances are spirited, and Garland is exceptionally good. As for love, the play doesn't debunk it hard enough to instill a sense of existential crisis (its musings on the subject are superficial and familiar), but the final affirmation at least comes nar), but the final affirmation at least comes at us quietly and not unmovingly. (Avila) **Destin@ation.SF** Victoria Theatre, 2961 16th St; 863-7576. \$25. Fri-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 7:30pm. Through Jan 21, 2001. Spectacles Productions presents their latest musical featuring lavish costumes and special lighting effects.

A Grand Night for Singing New Conservatory Theatre Center, 25 Van Vess; 861-8972. \$16-32. Thurs-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 2pm. Through Jan 21, 2001. The New Conservatory Theatre Center presents Rogers and Hammerstein's

 Great Religions of America The Marsh. Great Religions of America The Marsh, 1062 Valencia; 826-5750. \$10-15. Thurs/14-Sat/16, 8pm. In 21st-century America, what better place for the Devil and the Goddess to duke it out than a mediation firm? In writer-performer Frank Wortham's new solo play, neither a visionary musical deity nor her estranged satanic rock star boyfriend make it into the conference room to find resolution. into the conference room to find resolution. They're stopped cold at the reception desk by the presence of the innocent, dorky young Max, and are moved to do battle for Max's unblemished soul. Wortham is a gift-ed performer and writer with perfect pitch for the mad music of contemporary speech, and this latter-day morality play's early scenes are hilarious and fitfully inspired. Charlie Varon makes his directorial debut here, and he's clearly a salutary influence, but the exprise also have come acided vit. but the evening also has some decided pit-falls, principally an abrupt leap to a pre-dictable conclusion. Still, Wortham is a thrilling young talent, and *Great Religions* is an often delightful blend of naiveté and wis-dom. (Rosenstein)

com. (Rosenstein)

I Married an Angel Eureka Theatre, 215 Jackson; 788-1125. \$13-25. Thurs-Fri, 8pm; Sat,
6pm; Sun, 2pm. Through Sat/23. The 42nd
Street Moon group presents Rodgers and Hart's musical

The Importance of Being Earnest Magic Theatre, Fort Mason, Marina at Laguna; 749-2228. \$5-10. Thurs/14-Fri/15, 8pm. Steven Cosson directs the American Conservatory Theater's Masters of Fine Arts students in

Oscar Wilde's play.

The Late Henry Moss Theater on the
Square, 450 Post; 478-2277, \$30-65. Wed/13Sat/16, 8p on (also Wed/13, 2pm); Sun/17,
2pm. Sam Shepard's first premiere at the
Magic Theatre in 17 years boasts a star-studded cast including Nick Nolte, Sean Penn,
Woody Hargleon, and Cheech Mayin. De Woody Harrelson, and Cheech Marin. Despite an uneven production directed by Shepard, the good news is that it's also a rich, intriguing play. For all the big names onstage, the evening's finest performance is delivered by James Gammon as Henry Moss, a man on the verge of being erased by his

own life failings. To his deathbed come his estranged sons Earl (Nolte) and Ray (Penn), attempting to come to terms with this man they never knew. The ensuing stew of free-floating identity and comically mystical exchanges is familiar Shepard country, and after a shaky beginning the play takes off.
Harrelson is hilarious as a freaked-out cab driver, and Marin crafts a warm and gentle cameo as Henry's devoted neighbor. Things

get windy, but there is a genuine scope to this play, a brothers-Karamazov-go-west quality that finds emptiness and weakness as resonant as compassion and forgiveness. (Rosenstein)

ness. (Rosenstein)

"Mamma Mia! Orpheum Theatre, 1192

Market; 512-7770. \$33-75. Wed-Sat, 8pm
(also Wed, Sat, Thurs/21, Thurs/28, 2pm; no
Wed, 2pm, shows after Wed/27); Sun, 2pm

Continued on page 98

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#### **Theater**

From page 97

12/31

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(no show Sun/24). Starting Jan 7, additional shows Sun, 7:30. Through Feb 17. I can't admit to ever having been an ABBA fan, so I was amazed at how many of the group's 22 songs featured in this smash London musical were completely ingrained in my consciousness. Catherine Johnson's book,

centered on a wedding on a Greek island, is an amusing trifle but often quite clever in working in these familiar songs. Given the high camp factor, what's surprising is just how effective these tunes are theatrically, and under Phyllida Lloyd's playful direction the evening has a joyous, niegawatt energy more typical of old-time musical comedy. This U.S. premiere features a marvelous cast, state of the procedure of Company of the procedure of Company of the procedure of Company of the procedure of the procedur



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Robinson, and a simple but luscious production design by Mark Thompson. It's a bubble-gum evening to be sure, but of very high quality and enormous fun. (Rosenstein)

Mimzabim! Omni Circus Theatre, 550

Natoma; 701-0686. \$10-13. Thurs/14Sat/16, 8pm. This black comic journey into the mind of the catatonic Sara — replete with horny nutso doctors, ingeniously inserted Q-tips, and squirting bodily fluids — is an Artaudian assault on linear, well-behaved theater.

Naked Boys Singing! Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St; 433-9500. \$25-30. Extended run: Wed-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 6 and 9pn; Sun, 7pm. Through Sun/23. No false advertising here; just seven guys singing their pants off. This L.A.-to-New York hit conceived by Robert Schrock features 16 songs celebrating everything from "Gratuitous Nudity" to locker-room erections. For all its frothiness the show makes some credible gestures toward dimension, including one man's touching message to a dead lover. Many of the bods on display are actually as imperfect as the voices, which is all part of the point of E. Allen Sawyer's refreshingly inclusive direction. (Rosenstein)

Popcom Actors Theatre, 533 Sutter; 296-

Popcom Actors Theatre, 533 Sutter; 296-9719. \$20-35. Thurs/14-Sat/16, 8pm. Catherine Castellanos directs Ben Elton's novel turned play.

R. Buckminster Fuller: The History (and Mystery) of the Universe George Coates Performance Works, 110 McAllister, 392-4400. \$30-35. Holiday schedule, Through Sun/24: Wed-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 3 and 8pm; Sun, 3pm. Through Dec 31. Presented in the format of Fuller's famous marathon lectures, this new solo show (here in a return engagement) written and directed by D.W. Jacobs telescopes into a few hours a rich combination of memoir, history, science, economics, philosophy, prophecy, and prayer.

prophecy, and prayer.

Sunday on the Rocks Theatre Rlimoceros, 2926 16th St; 433-9500, \$12-15. Thurs/14-Sat/16, 8:30pm. Theresa Rebeck's comedy about four women's lives begins with Elly (Arwen Anderson) announcing she is pregnant and inviting her housemates Gayle (Jill Pixley) and Jen (Karen Walsh) to join her in a breakfast of scotch. The talk ranges variously across sex, politics, and money, revealing the lives of underachieving women entering their 30s and still drifting. Rebeck has a real flair for capturing how women speak to one another, and the play provides the guilty pleasure of eavesdropping on conversations that progress via calibrated nuances from validation to manipulation. But in the second act things take an unfortunate turn toward melodrama, with the women reaching irritating, credulity-straining levels of judgment and influence over one another. Despite a contrived ending, however, Rebeck delivers a satisfying showdown, leavening the clumsy manipulations of plot and tone

Super Train: Maiden Voyage Bayfront Theater, Fort Mason, Bldg B, Marina at Laguna; 474-8935. \$7. Thurs/14, 8pm. The Belfry performs an improv show featuring recurring characters and special guests

with refreshingly complex characteriza-

characters and special guests.

The Vagina Monologues. Alcazar Theater, 650 Geary; 433-9500. \$30-45. Tues, 8pm; Fri-Sat, 8:30pm (also Sat, 5pm); Sun, 3 and 7pm (additional shows Wed/27-Thurs/28, 8pm). Through Dec 31. Playwright Eve Ensler performs an evening of monologues culled from hundreds of interviews with women about their most private parts. A charismatic New Yorker, Ensler instantly establishes a chatty, affable tone, leavening material that could turn cheaply scatological with a delightful sense of humor. Given the tumultuous acclaim the show has received, I can't say I found many of these monologues terribly surprising; the indignities of the gynecologist's office, for instance, are pretty well-worn comedic territory. What Ensler brings to the table are candor, playfulness, and a spiritual righteousness, and the laughter she provokes in celebrating vaginas as zones of power and pleasure is a singular gift. (Rosenstein)

gift. (Rosenstein)

The Waiting Room A Traveling Jewish Theatre, 470 Florida; 978-0921. \$12-25.

Thurs/14-Sat/16, 8pm; Sun/17, 2 and 7pm. Nightletter Theatre directors Sydney and Arthur Carson offer an original play that asks us to consider the dream world as the

inmate's fervid dream becomes a surreal discourse on the meaning of memory, the elu-siveness of love, and the desire for escape. Despite a haunting set design by Lauren Elder, we never realize the requisite other-worldliness of this dream tale, which fizzles out early on. The script, relaying a series of semicryptic lines meant to evoke the poetry of dreams, produces instead a tiresome barrage of flapdoodle. The staging is another problem. Director Jim Cave has his actors creep gratingly around the stage as they utter their lines in overly stylized speech.
The effect is more soporific than you would want your dreams to be. A smattering of mixed media more often clutters than enhances the mise en scène. Leads Emily Jor-dan (as Nostalgia) and Clive Worsley (as Normal) do their best under the circumstances, but the pacing is too flaccid to encourage any spark between them. (Avila)

The Wrapping Paper Caper: A Tale of Hollday Mischief II Teatro 450, 449 Powell; 433-1172. \$10–12. Sat/16–Sun/17, 1:30pm; daily, Mon/18-Sat/30, 1:30pm (no shows Sun/24 Mon/25). Liebe Wetzel and her ensemble, Lunatique Fantastique, are generally known for puppetry intended for adults. But this holiday show is aimed at all ages, and it seemed to particularly delight the younger and older ends of the audience spectrum. Loosely structured as a film noir-style mys tery involving a bumbling private eye and a conspicuously wrapped gift, this 40-minute show is basically an excuse for some wonderfully inventive and shamelessly silly pup-petry crafted from ordinary objects. My own favorites were a glowing crustacean made of silverware and a basket of dinner rolls that

last vestige of human freedom. A death row

ping. (Rosenstein)

Bay Area

Dinner with Frlends Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison, Berk; (510) 647-2949. \$16-51. Tues, Thurs-Sat, 8pm (also Sat-Sun, Thurs/21, Jan 4, 2pm); Wed, 7pm. Through Jan 5, 2001 (no show Sun/24; no matinees Sat/23). In Donald Margulies's Pulitzerwinning play, Gabe (Dan Hiatt) and Karen (Lauren Lane) invite their longtime best friends Tom (Bill Geisslinger) and Beth (Lorri Holt) to dinner. Tom is conspicuously absent, and Beth soon reveals he has left her for another woman. This soap opera situation is initially played out in pedestrian terms, but things deepen as Margulies focuses on the divorce's repercussions on the foursome's friendships, particularly the questions it raises for Gabe and Karen. Margulies has a knack for teasing complex emotional wrinkles out of iconic human relationships, but he can also be maddening, his characters irritatingly self-absorbed and his dialogue toe-scrunchingly awkward. Hiatt and Holt do fine work, but lopsidedness in both the performances and the writing makes for an only partially satisfying Dinner. (Rosenstein)

went through some inspired transformations. Great lightweight fun, and a perfect

break from the madness of holiday shop-

Seventh Veil LaVal's Subterranean Theatre, 1834 Euclid, Berk; (510) 655-0813. Thurs/14-Sat/16, 8pm; Sun/17, 7pm. \$10. Six actors and two musicians tell the story of Salome.

The Weir Berkeley City Club, 2315 Du-

The Weir Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant, Berk; (510) 843-4822, \$26-35.

Wed/13-Sat/16, Spm; Sun/17, 2 and 7pm.

Extended run: Tues/19-Fri/22 and Dec 2629, 8pm; Sat/23 and Sat/30, 2 and 8pm. The
Aurora Theatre Company has managed to
snag the Bay Area premiere of Conor
McPherson's international hit, and it's in
excellent hands. This chamber play set in a
rural Irish pub seems tailor-made for the
intimate Aurora space. The regulars at
Brendan's get thrown for a loop by the appearance of newcomer Valerie (Emily Ackerman), who's renting a local house rumored to be haunted. The ensuing exchange of ghost stories gets trumped by
Valerie herself, who may know more of the
unseen world than any of her pubmates.
Director Tom Ross and his exceptional cast
rarely miss a single subtextual note in
McPherson's deceptively simple play, a celebration of the healing power of companionship in a lonely place. Allen McKelvey,
W. Francis Walters, Charles Shaw Robinson, and Julian López-Morillas all do fine
work, and Ackerman is excellent in the pivotal role. (Rosenstein)

dance

Eclipse Dance Mission Theater, 3316 24th St, 826-4401. Sat-Sun, 8pm; Thurs/21, 7:30pm. \$15-30. The dance-theater company performs Passion 2000: A Winter Solstice Celebration in its third annual performance.
Sara Shelton Mann ODC Theater, 3153 17th St; 863-9834. Thurs-Sat, 8pm. \$15. See 8 Days a Week, page 74.
Scott Wells and Dancers Theater Artaud, 450

Scott Wells and Dancers Theater Artaud, 45 Florida; 621-7797. Thurs-Sat, 8pn; Sun, 5pm. \$15-20. Choreographer Scott Wells pairs real-life skateboarders with his own dancers for his new evening-length work, Oue Fell Swoop.

Yaelisa and Caminos Flamencos ODC Theater, 3153 17th St; 863-9834. Sun, 7pm. \$10-14. The company presents Café flamenco fiesta navidad with special guests Ernesto Hernandez, Stephanie Neira, and Romerito

Bav Area

Ballet Folklorico Mexicano de Carlos Moreno Chabot College Perforning Arts Center, 25555 Hesperian Blvd, Hayward; (510) 723-7249. Sat, 8pm; Sun, 2pm. \$20. Fifty dancers, musicians, and singers perform Mexican folkloric dance and song.

Theatre Flamenco Mountain View Performing Arts Center, Mountain View; (650) 903-6000. Sat, 8pm. Dean Lesher Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic-Dr, Wahnut Creek; (925) 943-7469. Sun, 2pm. \$25-27. Theatre Flamenco is in its 34th season, an impressive level of endurance given that dance companies can be born, live, and die in the blink of an eye. The company presents Sombras Flamencas: A Tapestry of Flamenco Music and Dance with guest musical artists performing the vocal and instrumental compositions of Manuel de Falla. Artistic director Miguel Santos offers two world premieres: Recuerdos, set to de Falla's Siete canciones populares, and Sombras flamencas, a dance that incorporates traditional flamenco rhythms including sleares, siguiriyas, la caña, and soleá por bulerías. (Belmar)

performance

'Cosmic Cabaret' Charles Hagar Planetarium, 1600 Holloway, Rm 422; 841-0699. Sat, 8pm. Through Sat/23. \$10. Lynda Williams and other Bay Area science entertainers per form in this comedic musical benefiting SFSU's Planetarium Productions.

Festival of American Playwrights of Color III Diego Rivera Theatre, 50 Phelan; 239-3132. Fri-Sat, 8pin; Sun, 2pm. \$5-10. City College sponsors an award-winning program of short plays and monologues by African American, Asian American, Latin American, and Native American playwrights and performers.

Girls Just Wanna Have Fun' Aunt Charlie's Lounge, 133 Turk; 441-2922. Sat, 10pm and midnight. Through Sun/30. Free. Kristy Cruise hosts a drag cabaret.

'The Last Temptation of Tony' Eureka Theatre, 215 Jackson; 788-7469. Mon, 7:30pm. Pay what you can. Christopher Pray gives an account of the life of Jesus's "younger, less divine" brother.

divine" brother.

'The Prince of Madness' Gershwin Theater,
2350 Turk; 441-3687. Wed/20, 8pm. \$15-18.
Dario D'Ambrosi uncovers the true identities of four pariahs in his one act play.

comedy

Brainwash Cafe and Laundromat 1122 Folsom; 861-3663. Open mic with host Tony Sparks, free.

Cobb's Comedy Club 2801 Leavenworth; 928-4320. Fri-Sat, 8 and 10pm: a night of comedy with Arj Barker, Rick Reynolds, and Randy Harken, \$15.

Java Source 343 Clement; 541-5610. Tues, 9:30pm: Laffaccino Comedy Open Mike, with host Nick Leonard, free.

Luggage Store 1007 Market; 255-5971. Tues, 8pm: open mic with host Tony Sparks, \$1-3. Paradise Lounge 308 11th St; 861-6906. Wed, 8pm: Chris Duffy and Gary Cannon host a night of stand-up comedy, \$6. Piaf's 1686 Market; 541-5610. Mon, 8pm:

Gay Comedy Showcase, with host Nick Leonard, \$5.

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#### first runs, rep films, & movie clock

#### film calendar

Punch Line 444 Battery; 397-4337. Wed-Thurs, 9: Punch Line Comedy Allstars, fea-turing Betty Wise. \$8. Fri-Sat, 9pm and Arsenio Hall, \$30.

Rasselas 1534 Fillmore; 921-2051. Sat, 7pm: S.F. Comedy Beat, with comedy, improv, and

#### spoken word

Open mics take place almost every night in cafés throughout the Bay Area. If you want to perform, show up about half an hour before start time to put your name on the list. A day-by-day guide to word events and fea-tured readers:

Wednesday: Brainwash Cafe 1126 Folsom; 864-3842. Al Robles, Anthony Robles, and open mic, free. La Peña Cultural Center 3105 Shattuck, Berk; (510) 849-2568. Elmaz Abinader, France Khitallah Noble, Kaveh Rad, jim saliba, Deema K Shehabi Tony Khalife, and the Country of Origin Band celebrate Ramadan, 7:30pm, \$7-10. Modern Times Bookstore 888 Valencia; 282-9246. "Revolutionary Voices," a performance fea-turing Alegria Sonata Barclay, Mario Balcita, Maria Poblet, Dani Montgomery, and Amy Sonnie, 7:30pm, free.

Thursday: Black Dot Cafe 2330 International, Oak; (510) 533-6629. Spoken word by Black Dot Artists Collective and open mic. 9:30pm, \$3. Cafe Firenze 2116 Shattuck, (510) 644-0155. Open mic with featured poet Lucy Lang Day and host Dale Jensen, 7pm, free. Mambo Mambo 1803 Webster, Oakl: (510) 832-9422, Poetry Slam and open mic hosted by Sonia and Nisa,

8pm, free.
Sunday: Paradise Lounge 1501 Folsom; 621-1911. Rene Van and Crispin Thomas perform, followed by open mic, 8pm, free. **Monday**: Notes from Underground 2399 Van Ness; 775-7638. "Celebration of the Word," featuring Sharon Doubiago,

Tuesday: Black Repertory Theater 3201 Adeline, Berk; (510) 652-2120. Third Eye Theatre presents poetry, spoken word, and comedy, 8pm, donations accepted, Rockin' Java 1821 Haight; 831-8842. Open Mind Open Mic with Carvell, 8pm; sign up at 7:30pm, free. Unitarian Center 1187 Franklin; 771-3352. Ed Roberson and Nathaniel Mackey read their new works, 7:30pm, \$5.

Film listings are edited by Cheryl Eddy. Reviewers are David Fear, Dina Gachman, Michelle Goldberg, Susan Gerhard, Dennis Harvey, Johnny Ray Huston, Robin Lapid, Patrick Macias, Anhoni Patel, Chuck Stephens, and Rob Taylor. See Movie Clock, page 11, for theater information.

#### Opening

'Boys Life 3' See Critic's Choice. (1:18)

Castro.
Coming to Light: Edward S. Curtis and the North American Indians Photography buffs and anyone interested in American Indian issues will find this film of particular note. Using a straightforward, Biography-ish for-mat (slow pans over still photos, voiceovers, talking heads), director Anne Make-peace explores the life of Edward S. Curtis, a self-taught photographer who spent the late 1800s and early-to-mid 1900s docu-menting the lives of North American Indians, eventually amassing an enormous body of work, including 40,000 photos, 10,000 recordings, and a full-length film. Makepeace is careful to show all sides of the story, allowing contemporary American Indians (many of whom remember, or had parents who remembered, Curtis's visto share their thoughts; while most are glad Curtis captured their traditions on film, some disapprove of his images, espe-cially those that depict religious cere-monies. Curtis is also taken to task for his nostalgic, often staged scenes of smiling

tribe members; he tended to gloss over the downsides of Indian life at the time — like the fact that children were forcibly sent to boarding schools, and that many tribal rit-uals had been made "illegal." Curtis schol-ars chip in on his behalf, and the Curtispenned narration (from his journals and books) and endless, stunning photographs steer the viewer toward believing that Curtis was nothing if not completely dedicated to his subjects and his work. (1:26) Roxie,

Dude, Where's My Car? Bill and Ted: 1989 :: Wayne and Garth: 1992: the two guys in this movie: 2000. (1:23) Jack London, Oaks.

The Emperor's New Groove Apparently the Disney factory has already chewed through every well-known myth and fairy tale, this one's about an emperor who has to make nice with the peasants when he's turned into a llama by a "devious diva." Uh, what? Sting did the music. (1:20) Jack London, Kabuki, 1000 Van Ness, Shattuck.

Michael Jordan to the Max Set around the Chicago Bulls' 1998 championship run, Michael lordan to the Max is a must-see for any basketball enthusiast. Everybody else might as well stay home or check out one of the better Imax flicks, like Everest, inof the better Imax files, like Everes, in-stead. Packed with highlights from Jordan's celebrated career, this film has a great deal of nostalgic appeal, but come on, he's only been retired for two years, and he's not even dead yet. Added to the impressive footage is narration by Laurence Fish-burne, which should make the film seem like a winner. Yet Michael lordan to the Max can't escape the "you can achieve whatever you put your mind to" sentimen-tality that is a tired component of nearly sports movie ever made. Why not just fill the biggest screen in the world with an hour of foxy Jordan's finest moments? Until such a film is made, this will have to do. (:46) Metreon Imax. (Jason Rezaian)
Voyages See Movie Clock, page 111. (1:55)

What Women Want Mel Gibson stars as a guy who can read women's minds. You wouldn't need a feature-length film to uncover what men want, now, would you? (2:03) Century Plaza, Empire, Jack London, Kabuki, Metreon, 1000 Van Ness.

#### Ongoing

Adventures in Wild California (:50) Metreon

Amargosa Broadway, ballet, and solo con-cert-touring dancer Marta Becket was dri-ving through Death Valley in the early 1960s when she discovered an abandoned theater and decided on the spot to abandon NYC for this isolated "ghost town. Since then she's become a sort of minor legend, as much for the sheer eccentricity of such High Art making in a desolate lo-cale as for the merit of her art itself which has encompassed everything from painting the "Amargosa Opera House" 's elaborate murals to composing music, in addition to a dance career that continues into her late 70s. Todd Robinson's beautifully shot documentary is right to admire the subject's tenacity - but oh so wrong to fawn over her so humorlessly, at such meandering length that you begin to wonder if Becket herself commissioned this "portrait." Worse, the combo of weak-kneed adoration and scant contextualizing makes Becket seem less a maverick than a high-grade narcissist, as these 90-odd minutes go on and on. (1:38) Rafael. (Harvey) Bamboozled (2:15) Shattuck.

Best in Show The latest nugget of deadpan brilliance from writer-actor-director Christopher Guest (Waiting for Guffinan) is a faux behind-the-scenes dog show documentary, following the precompetition preparations of several contestants and their loyal companions: fish bait store owner Harlan Pepper (Guest) and his faithful bloodhound Humbert; superyuppie catalog connoisseurs Meg and Hilton Swan (Parker Posey, Michael Hitchcock) and their neurotic weimaraner; dentally challenged Gerry Fleck (Eugene Levy), his wife, Cookie (Catherine O'Hara), and her terrier Winky; salon owner Stefan (Michael McKwinky; salon owner stellar (Michael McKean) and his partner's pampered pup Miss Agnes; and returning Mayflower champion Rhapsody in White's ditsy gold-digging owner (Jennifer Collidge) and professional trainer (Jane Lynch). While Guest chooses an easy target in dog shows (a circuit that already seems a parody unto itself), it's the joy of watching gifted comic actors riff like jazz musicians that makes Show such a consistent hoot. This dead-on satire is a full breed above any competition. (1:30) Act I and II, Embarcadero, Orinda. (Fear)
Blily Elliot The word "inspirational" has been haphazardly used to describe this feel-good Brit flick about a motherless 11 year-old boy (sensitively portrayed by Jamie Bell) who has to repress his burning desire to dance because he's living in a macho mining town. With his father and brother embroiled in a violent strike, Billy has plenty of space to sneak into an all-girl ballet class that's held at the same gym as his boxing lessons. Billy's instructor sees the potential in the dancing machine. His father and brother discover his ruse, and gender battles ensue. Director Stephen Daldry (Eight) means well, trying to show us the underdog thing from a fresh perspective, but about halfway into Billy Elliot, you get the feeling that somebody, some you get the learning that someous, some-where, is just trying too hard. But for kids, especially ones who are too paralyzed by ridicule to go after what they want, Billy Elliott might seem inspirational. (1:50) Albany, Clay, Piedmont. (Gachman)

Bounce Whatever those two kids may say,
Ben Affleck and Gwyneth Paltrow display a

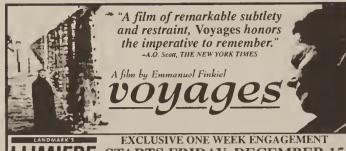
comfortable affection one would associate with lovers, not friends. Their on-screen with lovers, not friends. I neir on-screen chemistry is incredibly natural and unforced. Oh yeah, the movie's good too. Ben plays a slick ad executive who gives up his seat to an affable family man on a homeward-bound flight. When the plane crashes, killing everyone on board, Ben goes into his own personal tailspin of depression and drinking. A year later, on the road to recovery, Ben decides to lend a hand to the family man's widow, who turns out to be Gwyneth. Ben falls in love, but should he reveal his secret? Bounce feels like a movie at war with itself, as if director Don Roos couldn't decide if it was a sappy melodrama (warning: emotional manipulation involving cute kids) or an edgy, bittersweet romance (Ben and Gwyneth's scenes together are wondrous). The resultscenes together are wondrous). The resulting film may be eclectic and scattershot at
times, but it's also warmly genuine. (1:46)
Colma, Galaxy, Grand Lake, Metreon,
Metro, UA Berkeley. (Taylor)

Charlie's Angels Doing roughly to the
bloated action pic what The Brady Bunch
Movie did for sitcoms, Charlie's Angels am-

plifies genre conventions just to the edge of absurdist prankdom, lavishing both irony and affection on the ultra-idiocy of it all. Blond airhead Natalie (Cameron Diaz), trailer-trashy Dylan (Drew Barrymore), and resident brain trust Alex (Lucy Liu) are multitasking party girls equally able to subdue criminals via plunging neckline or deadly back-kick. Private chick-dicks in the employ of ever elusive Charlie (still voiced by John Forsythe), with dithering Bosley (Bill Murray) as support liaison, the Angels here lay tail on the trail of corporate thieves who might end (whatever's left of) personal-institutional privacy as we know it. Or something like that. Willfully convoluted and so-what in plot mechanics full of ridiculous slow-mo bunk-fu and absurd masters-of-disguise-deploy-sci-figadgets-in-posh-environs stuff, the movie makes no sense whatsoever. But, in a possible first, that's intentional. (1:32) Colma, Emery Bay, Grand Lake, Jack London, Kabu-ki, Metreon, 1000 Van Ness, UA Berkeley.

Cirque du Solell: Journey of Man (:38) Metreon Imax.

The Contender Both on-screen and off, it still seems America has a long way to go until a woman becomes president or even vice president. In writer and director Rod Lurie's film, Senator Laine Hanson (Joan Allen) is chosen by an oddly hip, foul-mouthed, and food-obsessed president (Jeff Bridges) to fill the seat of the recently deceased V.P. But the senator has some en-emies: right-winger Shelly Runyon (Gary Oldman) and Representative Reginald Webster (Christian Slater), who pull every trick in the book — like unearthing dirty photos of Hanson at an orgy — to make Continued on page 100



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Windsor - Airport Cinema 8

Petaluma - Pacific's Theatre Petaluma Rohnert Park - Pacific's Rohnert Park 16

#### first runs, rep films, & movie clock

#### Ongoing

sure she doesn't get past the confirmation hearings. Though it's got plenty of moralizing claptrap going on, it's far more multidimensional than other good-versus-evil, Absolute Power-ish movies set in the D.C. milieu; at least The Contender's politicians are more than saints or power-hungry despots. (2:10) Four Star. (Patel)

CyberWorld (:48) Metreon Imax.

Dancer in the Dark Lars von Trier's

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Dancer in the Dark's cruel puppet show is set in Washington, 1964, with main characters secretly blind Czech-immigrant Selma (Björk), her friend Kathy (Catherine Deneuve), sullen and disrespectful son Gene (Vladica Kostic), sweet but dull-witted gentleman caller Jeff (Peter Stormare), and seemingly sweet neighbors Bill (David Morse) and Linda (Cara Seymour). When Bill asks secretive Selma — who has been saving money for an operation that will save her son's eyesight — for a loan, the seeds of tragic melodrama are fully plant-

Magnificent Obsession, in which Douglas Sirk turned a female character's blindness into his own damning vision of America. In Dancer's nonmusical scenes, von Trier cavalierly answers the precise for 1. val clari-ty of Sirk's wide-screen Technicolor with his own device: disorienting handheld video. Dancer's first musical number exag yideo. Dancer's first musical number exag-gerates the musique concrète elements of Björk's solo recordings; the choreography by Vincent Patterson seems ill-served by fractured framing and sluggish edits. But this feeling of disconnect hints at reality's presence within Selma's fantasy — a creeping, increasingly powerful presence that abruptly stops her songs short. As Dancer's story becomes bleaker, Selma's fantasy songs grow more frequent. As Sirk did in Imitation, von Trier interrogates motherhood - its inherent life-and-death bonds with pitiless compassion. In the movie's final minutes Björk's voice taps into the primal quality beneath the more self-conscious nuances of her overall performance; her "Next to Last Song" (the musical moment when Selma's boundary between fan-tasy and reality is erased) still wins the battle against von Trier's mocking use of numbers as a dramatic distancing technique. (2:20) Lumiere, Shattuck. (Huston)

Dark Days Marc Singer crawls through well-worn cinema vérité ground as he voy ages through New York City's rat-infested

ed. Dancer unites Twin Peaks with 1954's

■ Dark Days Marc Singer crawls through well-worn cinema vérité ground as he voyages through New York City's rat-infested Amtrak tunnels to document life down there, but this is no simple "homeless documentary." As far from the pity perspective as you can get, Singer and his DJ Shadow soundtrack celebrate life underground — squalor in the best sense of the word, complete with wood-cube houses featuring

shelves and pets and found color TVs and electric razors and clotheslines and cornbread and crack. Singer himself lived in the tunnel before and during the making of this film, and he and his film crew of fellow tunnelers create a sitcomical look at the brilliance of everyday life in this scavenged world. The film goes off track as it follows the drama aboveground (Amtrak officials are trying to clear the homeless out of the tunnel; advocates are fighting for the tunnel; advocates are fighting for the tunnelers' rights to a home of some kind), but this is one documentary that feels the life instead of just wanting to explain it. (1:34) Opera Plaza, Shattuck. (Gerhard)

(Gerhard)

Dungens and Dragons Heshers, social misfits, and wanna-be 12th-level mages rejoice! The cult role-playing game finally hits the big screen, albeit with a resounding thud. Some ne'er-do-well thieves and a sorcerer's apprentice gallivant amidst dwarfs, elves, digital effects, and a host of Ye Olde Renaissance Pleasure Faire extras in order to keep a magical scepter out of the hands of Insidious British Villain #437 (Jeremy Irons) — thus saving a young queen (Thora Birch)'s empire. Hard-core D&D fans who finally left their parents' basements to see this will delight in how the filmmakers managed to make all those Jethro Tull album covers come to life, but suffering through all the dragon's droppings of dialogue, wooden acting, and every stolen sci-fi/fantasy trope known to man (or elf) to see that singular minute of cool footage (dig that CGI dragon-fight!) is bound to make any dungeonmaster feel gypped. Final roll tally: 0 for dexterity, a 22 for hamminess, and a whooping 27 for sheer ineptitude. (1:47) Colma, Emery Bay,

Grand Lake, Kabuki, Metreon, 1000 Van Ness, Shattuck. (Fear) Fantasia 2000 (1:15) Metreon Imax. Genghis Khan (1:45) Four Stat.

■ A Hard Day's Night A Hard Day Night isn't so much time capsule as spaceship, this time around dusted and remixed by the good folks at Miramax for maximum sonic displacement and impact. Partially because it was a relative cheapie (\$500,000) and a quickie, shot before the Beatles' famous Ed Sullivan splashdown, the film was postdubhed, and the voices in the original postubled, and the voices in the original are freakishly out of sync. Seemingly any-body who digitally "remasters" music-against-voices levels simply makes the music sound as synthetically tacked on as possible — not that this is inappropriate or incongruous. It in fact enhances the effect of the original film: modish, post-keen, and ultra-now, the "restored" levels are an assurance that we are living in just as plastic an age. What's touching about A Hard Day's Night is how much it rides on pure plasticity. One critic's pegging of for-mer ad director Richard Lester's style as "Rube Goldberg" is perfect; everyone on the film seems on their toes to finesse the insouciance. Much of this depends on the moments in the film when it looks sloppimoments in the film when it looks sloppi-est and no one gives a fuck: the crummy lip-synching in the baggage car during "I Should Have Known Better," the bobbling camera seemingly tossed to each Beatle in the rapturous "Can't Buy Me Love" se-quence — still a terrific vacation from your senses with helicopter shots, fast-slo shifts, fun as solid, busy abstraction. (1:31) Lumiere. (Edward E. Crouse) How the Grinch Stole Christmas Tinges of

Ace Ventura pop out every once in a while, but luckily Jim Carrey doesn't do his usual over-the-top, annoying shtick with Ron Howard's version of Dr. Seuss's Grinch. Subdued he's not, but he's also got on a costume that covers every inch of his face and body, so who knows what rubber band—y, nerve-grating expressions are going on under there. Plus, everyone involved in the making of this film is obviously having fun, and if Dr. Seuss is good for anything, it's that. Howard has managed to create a completely entertaining film that'll make real-life Grinches and cynics all mushy inside. And we're in dire need of a timeless, original Christmas movie à la Christmas Story, not to mention an entertaining, classic children's flick that adults'll dig too. (1:38) Alexandria, Century Plaza, Emery Bay, Grand Lake, Jack London, Kabuki, Metreon, 1000 Van Ness, Shattuck, UA Berkeley. (Gachman)

The Legend of Bagger Vance (2:07) Galaxy. Little Nicky (1:28) Metreon, 1000 Van Ness.

Me and Isaac Newton The latest well-funded nonfiction survey by Michael Apted (7 through 42 Up) is neither socio-anthropological nor political, but it is secular-humanist propaganda in a way. (And yes: that is a good thing.) Apted admiringly profiles seven top-ranked scientists, who range all over the map in age (38 to 81), motivation, character quirks, and field of concentration. The director isn't interested so much in scientific responsibility, or even these brilliant minds' particular discoveries. Instead he focuses on science as creative expression, treating his interviewees with the same warmth, fascination, and gratitude that documentaries usually reserve for artists or human rights martyrs. Me and Isaac Newton is a wonderfully entertaining, nonstuffy inspirational tool that makes high-minded scholarship look fun, even cool. (1:48) Opera Plaza, Shattuck.

Meet the Parents (1:48) California, Kabuki, Metreon, 1000 Van Ness.

Men of Honor (2:09) Colma, Emery Bay, Kabuki, Metreom, 1000 Van Ness, UA Berkeley.

1D2 Dalmations This big-budget dog-training extravaganza doesn't rate high in the Babe pantheon of anthropomorphic animal rights activist fantasies. In this drab, slobbery sequel, Glenn Close's scenery-chewing, two-tone Cruella De Vilemerges from the slammer cured of her lust for a canine fur coat. But wouldn't you

know it, she falls off the PETA wagon and

has her hapless manservant go a-huntin'

for those cute spotted poochies — with a wholesome parole officer in pursuit. This

Continued on page 102



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film

calendar

lackluster family movie is shamelessly simi-

lar to Chicken Run, this year's more charming endangered animal film, down to the

ling endangered ainman link, down on the elaborate production-line bakery climax. While Run's animated chickens were lovably artificial, the whole of Dalmatians seems cheaply faux, with live-action trans-

lations of cartoon violence that are unnecessarily mean-spirited and ugly. There are scenes of man-dog tug-o'-war, lots of ca-nine drool, and an interspecies bacchanal

nine drool, and an interspecies bacchanal banquet. But nothing is as unsightly as beefy Gerard Depardieu playing a hothead fashion designer as a hybrid of Jean Paul Gaultier and Karl Lagerfeld, complete with mullet, pony tail, and lion-fur hot pants. Eecew! (1:34) Alexandria, Century Plaza, Emery Bay, Galaxy, Grand Lake, Jack London, Kabuki, Metreon, Oaks, Orinda, Stonestown, UA Berkeley. (Glen Helfand)

estown, UA Berkeley (Glen Helfand)
Panic Director Henry Bromell's Panic dares
to take verrry seriously what Analyze This,
Coldblooded, The Whole Nine Yards, and
Gun Shy have already parodied: that
midlife-crisis-of-a-sensitive-hitman-intherapy thing. William H. Macy plays Alex,
a model son, husband, and father. He resides in some pristine commuter hamlet
with loving wife and their adorable tyke.
Doting gram 'n' gramps (Barbara Bain,
Donald Sutherland) are just a hop and a
skip away. Alex runs his own mail-order
service, but he also works "in the family
business": He kills people! For money! Alex
doesn't like his "other" job, so he consults
headshrinker Dr. Parks, whose caring ratio-

headshrinker Dr. Parks, whose caring ratio-nality is personified by facially fuzzy-wuzzy

John Ritter. (Repeat: Panic is not a comedy.) Alex hopes to heal his wounded inner child, but wouldn't you know, it's not that simple. Geez, can it be that cardigan-clad,

simple. Geez, can it be that cardigan-clad, pipe-smoking Pops has been, well, truly evil all along?!? Panic's bogusness is exceeded only by its poker-faced self-importance. Bromell believes in lines even his actors, let alone the audience, cannot: "What do you want?!" "You." Now we do know that Macy can lie with dog-smelling material and get up sans the fleas of humiliation. Which cannot be said of Subbriland or Bain two

cannot be said of Sutherland or Bain, two oft-fine veterans whose "shocking" trans-formation here into Frankenfolks had me

howling for mercy. (1:30) Roxie, Opera Plaza, Shattuck. (Harvey)

Proof of Life To say that Proof of Life is carrying some rather heavy public baggage is a wee bit of an understatement; it's a sure

bet that half of the Western world will be scanning every lingering look and closely framed two-shot of stars Meg Ryan and Russell Crowe for hints of that off-screen

Russell Crowe for hints of that off-screen tabloid fodder. As it is, this ho-hum story of a hostage negotiator (Crowe) who "risk: it all" to save the husband of Ryan's character needs that peek-a-boo publicity to help sustain open eyelids. Sure, swarthy Crowe has screen presence to burn, but other than a terse, stylistic prologue and

the Chuck Norris-sanctioned finale, Proof seems downright inert. Director Taylor Hackford (An Officer and a Gentleman) handles the material awkwardly, and there

is a distinct lack of money shots (any ro-mantic scenes are currently steaming up a

mantic scenes are currently steaming up a cutting-room floor). This whole affair seems destined solely for curio status and answering a future Hollywood gossip trivia question. (2:15) Alexandria, Century Plaza, Cinema 21, Emery Bay, Jack London, Metre-

on, 1000 Van Ness, Orinda, Presidio, Ston-estown, UA Berkeley. (Fear)

→ Quills This carefully crafted movie ver-

\*Unils This carefully cratted movie version of Doug Wright's play (Wright also wrote the screenplay) directed by Philip Kaufman (The Unbearable Lightness of Being, Henry and June), makes square one the Marquis de Sade (Geoffrey Rush)—the man, the myth, the lech—and spirals outward. Quille exploring how one restreated in the present the present the state of the state

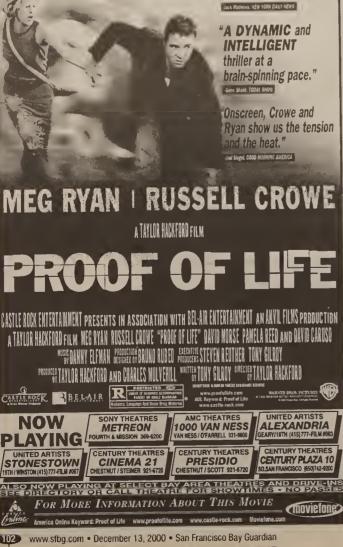
**Ongoing** 

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extraordinary person affects the lives of those who, out of curiosity or revulsion, are drawn to his writings and subsequently become entangled in the last years of his life, when de Sade was detained in the Charenton insane asylum under the care o one Abbé de Coulmier (Joaquin Phoenix) When righteous bastard Dr. Royer-Collard (Michael Caine) arrives to oversee the institution, he prevents the Marquis - and Continued on page 104

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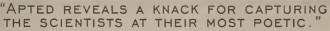
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FORWARD >

## calendar

## first runs, rep films, & movie clock

#### Ongoing

his partner-in-crime, a chambermaid (Kate Winslet) — from smuggling any more prose to his publisher. When the Marquis is completely denied the ability to write, hell breaks loose for all the characters, not just the frustrated prisoner. This being de Sade's story, Kaufman takes an appropriately sadistic-meets-cheeky approach: plenty of visceral flourishes, double entendre-laden dialogue, and a naughty sense of humor. A vicious climax bleakly underscores the dangerous side of unchecked urges, but a surprisingly strong statement about the importance of art and freedom of expression emerges. (2:04) California, Embarcadero, Piedmont. (Eddy)
Red Planet Former movie star Val Kilmer's latest attempt at career rejuvenation is way better (less cheesy, less pretentious) than this spring's Brian De Palma nightmare, Mission to Mars, but it's still not anything you need to rush out and see. The Matrix's Carrie-Anne Moss plays the commander of the first earthling crew routed for Martian exploration. The shockingly photogenic astronauts (Kilmer, Benjamin Bratt, and Terence Stamp among them) have a bumpy ride to the surface; once there they face killer storms, killer critters, their own killer robot, and killer views of Mars's Monument Valley-on-crack landscape. Oh, no-name director Antony Hoffman, so many questions - If the robot is supposed to be a research tool to help save humankind, why does it also have an (easily triggered) evil, machine-of-death function? Why does Moss wear white tank tops when it's really cold? — and so few answers. "Fuck this

planet!" Val cries as he blasts from the surface; everywhere legions of filmgoers consider both of this year's Mars films and nod in agreement. (1:56) Metreon. (Eddy) Remember the Titans If you're a fan of the mighty Denzel, stay away from this clueless, lazily directed (by Boaz Yakin — A Price above Rubies, Fresh) "true story" about a black football coach (Washington) recruited in 1971 to work in a recently integrated Southern high school, taking over the spot of the long-loved white coach (Will Patton) spot. So Washington's Coach Boone is a "race man." His mission isn't just to win football games, it's to change the world, change these boys, change the town — all noble intentions, of course, but 'mon. Coach Boone treats the players like Navy Seals during Hell Week, making them run at 5 a.m. to — guess where — Gettysburg — for empowering speeches about young men who died — for what! The movie has its heart in the right place, but it makes such clichéd mockery of the horrors of racism that it's hard to stomach. (1:53) Colma, Oaks. (Gachman)

Requiem for a Dream Director Darren

Aronofsky (Pi) and Hubert Selby Jr. (author of the 1978 novel from which the film is adapted) are a perfect match. Set in a purposely vague, decrepit Coney Island epoch somewhere between the Me Decade and Now, Requiem for a Dream is more of a dirge, if a dirge could St. Vitus-dance at 200 beats per minute. Pathetic widow Sara Goldfarb (Ellen Burstyn) has no real life of her own, unless being a couch potato counts; faint hopes that only child Harry (Jared Leto) will ever fly right are dashed each time he pawns her boob tube for smack cash. Harry has a "business partner"

in lifelong friend Tyrone (Marlon Wayans) and a great girlfriend in disenfranchised rich chick Marion (Jennifer Connelly). The boys are as eager to swim upstream as she is to drift downward. Setting up a heroin-dealership shop — just until they make one big score, of course — seems like a good idea until a supply shortage occurs. Meanwhile, Sara gets hooked on diet pills.
This diary of an increasingly mad hausfrau
parallels the younger trio's descent into
variably delusional, panicked, exploited, and life-threatened personal hells. Never blinking or flinching (that's your job), Re quiem takes us right along with the charac-ters, turning physical and psychological deterioration into a clinical, merciless film aesthetic. (1:42) Act I and II, Embarcadero

Rugrats in Paris (1:25) Century Plaza, Emery Bay, Jack London, Kabuki, Metreon, 1000 Van Ness, Shattuck.

The 6th Day Though this ain't the first time Arnold Schwarzenegger's reproduced (Junior), been brain-drained (Total Recall), or been twinned (as a crapulous Danny DeVito in the movie that inspired that ace loel Siegel pud-pull "See Twins Twice!"), The 6th Day is his first overt nod to cyberpunk mear-Ludditism. Swarzenegger's Adam wakes up on his birthday and goes to work, but along the way are some blippy timeskip orchestrations, covering everything from his sidekick's murder to the last few memories of his life. Upon returning home, he discovers his new double inside celebrating "his" birthday. Assassins intercept him, obligingly explaining crucial points about the law and human cloning before they terminate him. What Adam

Continued on page 106

## 'Boys Life 3'

Fri/15-Fri/22, Castro Theatre

This latest package of recent gay-themed shorts from Strand Releasing offers a typically breezy, entertaining, occasionally provocative mix of comedy and drama. Beyond David Fourier's Godardian (but fun) opener, the terribly French politics-of-sex treatise "Majorettes in Space," all titles here are U.S.-made, conventional fiction narratives. While the ideas are seldom new, their execution is always (well, almost always) confident and diverting. Bradley Rust's "Hitch" brings considerable atmosphere and tension to that old chestnut, the two hetero best buddies who find their relationship entering new terrain during a long road trip. Gregory Cooke's "\$30" likewise refreshes a tired conceit with restrained, even poignant treatment, as an adolescent (Erik McArthur) recoils from his dad's 15th-birthday "present": a deflowening "date" with a weary prostitute (Sara Gilbert). The two forge a brief friendship that keeps their dignity, and his thanks-but-no-thanks gay cherry, intact. Lane Janger's festival favorite "Just One Time" (not to be confused with his recent, more mixed feature-length expansion of the same name) is a hilariously pointed riposte to the hypocrisy inherent in one straight guy's sexual agenda: He begs his girlfriend to "go bi" with another girl in a three-way, but when their "special guest" shows up, he finds his own comfort zone raided instead. At once the longest, best-funded, starriest, and weakest of this bunch, "Inside Out" has curiosity value to burn, given that it's directed and written by Jason Gould (La Streisand and Elliott Gould's son, previously seen as an actor in her Prince of Tides). It's a silly comedy about ... uh, being the child of celebrities, of course, with Jason pretty much playing himself amid various cameo-granting



Hollywood types (including and dad, but not mom). The gist is "Why can't they (tabloids, paparazzi, Scientologists, other leeches) just leave me alone g to be who I really am?," which would be fine if indeed he revealed himself as anything more than a mugging, cutesy, gay-ingenue ditz. This lame vanity exercise ends with a Rollerblading striptease designed to "shock" a hounding photographer away --- or maybe just to show off Gould's decent bod. We're with you, Jason: you do need to get a life. If this sitcomish ä half hour inadvertently satis-१ fies only on the Hollywoodvoyeurism level it decnes, "Boys Life 3" 's other 50 minutes offer compensating depth, talent, and stylishness.

See Rep Clock for times.

(Dennis Harvey)

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#### film calendar

#### Ongoing

eventually learns is that nobody loves a clone, least of all God or the government. That compassionate conservativism is again prowling around here brings to light the predicament of the latest last action heroes, who use their film vehicles as checkpoints for their virtuous virility and hypocrisy. Hence Adam-Arnold's warning to two guards he corners with his laser gun: "My daughter is right inside that door. Now, I don't want to expose her to graphic violence. I think she gets enough of that in the media." The Patriot waved around a similar sense of solemnity, duty, family values, protecting youth. The 6th Day just shows how much cornier this dreck plays in the future. (2:04) California, Century Plaza, Emery Bay, Galaxy, Kabuki, Metreon. (Crouse)

Metreon. (Crouse)

Solas Solas, the title of a new Spanish film
by Benito Zambrano, means "alone," and
the film is full of all the aching isolation
and pathos its name suggests. It's the story of Maria, a sharp, bitter woman still smart-ing from the wounds of an abusive childing from the woulds of an abusive child-hood. When her cruel father gets sick and is taken to the hospital in the city where she lives, her kind, defeated mother comes to stay with her while she keeps a vigil over the husband who has broken her spirit. Maria's mother's earthy sweetness is appreciated by a sprightly, warm, desperately lonely old man who lives in Maria's building, but she's too terrified of her husband's possessiveness to really become his friend. Meanwhile, Maria finds herself pregnant by a callous thug who tells her, "If you want a dick, you can have mine, but that's all we have." All the characters are so richly etched and empathetic that one practically prays for a bit of good fortune to befall them, so when moments of redemption come, they're deeply satisfying. (1:38) Four Star. (Goldberg)

Suzhou River Mei-mei is a mermaid — a

rent-a-mermaid — and everybody wants her pager number. She's also the radiance within and the reason to see Suzhou River, an aggressively stylish Chinese-German coproduction directed by Lou Ye. The film's double story unfolds as two men, one a videographer, the other a motorcycle deliveryman, become entranced by a waif, Moudan; later, after Moudan has plunged into the brackish Suzhou, sinking without a trace, she reappears — maybe — as Meimei. Neither guileless nor gill-less, Mei-mei works in a sleazy nightclub, drowning herself in vodka and toying distractedly with a finned Barbie doll. For director Lou and his characters, she's a Lolita from the bilge, erotic and illusive. Are Mei-mei and Moudan one in the same? This much is sure: they're played by the young Chinese actress Zhou Xun, a doe-eyed glimpse of the sublime. If only Lou's film, which barely contains her, could stake so bold a claim. Directed with borrowed panache, Suzhou River wears its influences like a succession of party hats. A heavily voiced-over voyage through smudgy textures, lyrical smears, and a quasi-Bernard Hermann big-string score, you might call it Wong Kar-wai's Ver tigo — every film critic in America likely will. But given Suzhou River's movie-mad chaos, its teenage sex appeal and arty au-teur sleaze, calling it Brian De Palma's The Little Mermaid might do just as well. (1:23) Four Star, Rafael, UC Theatre. (Stephens)

\*\*A Time for Drunken Horses Into a national cinema filled with allegorical children's stories that may have mythic layers attached but often lack that painful punch to the gut, Bahman Ghobadi throws this grenade, in which a group of parental guidance-free children fend for themselves against all the elements: war, snow, thieves, against all the elements: war, snow, theves, and biology. The older hrother in a Kurdish family, Ayoub — who regularly hauls goods over the Iran-Iraq border at risk of death — has taken it upon himself to feed the family and take care of his ailing dwarf brother, who he learns needs an expensive operation. With no lack of imagination, or endurance, Ayoub hoofs his way through ambushes and toward the border with a gang of smugglers and horses so pained they have to be made drunk to join the caravan in search of money for his surgery

Continued on page 109



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very first shot and goes downhill from there. Peter (Chris O' Donnell) has 36

hours to rescue a group of stranded climbers, including his sister Annie (Robin Tunney). The film's prime-notion of brav-ery: 'Tis better to risk several necks than

give up on an already doomed one. The screenplay is credited to Robert King and

Terry Hayes, but one detects the inimitable

stamp of committee here, with Robby the Robot perhaps responsible for a final cut-

bad reason to make a movie, even when they're very good. And here, they're not. Hitherto able blockbustmeister Martin

Campbell (Goldeneve, The Mask of Zorro)

what's left? Oh yeah: good storytelling. (2:06) Century Plaza, Coronet, Emery Bay,

(2:00) Certainy Fiaza, Coroner, Emery Ba Empire, Jack London, Metreon, 1000 Van Ness, UA Berkeley. (Harvey) Wonder Boys (1:52) 1000 Van Ness. What's Cooking (1:49) Shattuck.

You Can Count on Me This is one of

struggling to raise her young son in a small rural town, whose life spirals into

chaos when her slacker brother (Mark

Ruffalo) returns home to get his own life together and she begins sleeping with her married boss, played by Matthew Broder-ick at his nerdy best. Playwright Kenneth

fast-paced film, it's outstandingly well-

Ghobadi, the first Kurd to make a prominent feature about Kurds (he plays a major role in Samira Makhmalbaf's recent entry on the region, Blackboards), is breaking

ground as he crosses borders. (1:20) Opera Plaza, Rafael. (Gerhard) Unbreakable Not that you'd know it with-out seeing it, but this "suspense thriller" is really about superheroes and comic books. In this utterly nutty movie, race-class allegory is transferred onto the relationship gory is transferred onto the relationship between fanboy and superhero — a canny if shockingly outlandish concept — as helpless Elijah (Samuel L. Jackson) pins his vain hopes on "unbreakable," and at first uncomprehending, David (Bruce Willis), Director M. Night Shyamalan, who came to prominence with The Sixth Sense, is an engaging talent — one wonders if he'll be able to ride out the Hollywood beast. Here, his teasing, elliptical sense of narrative keeps things intriguing for a good half of the movie, but things fall apart once Shya-malan's forced to show his hand — the logical resolution of Unbreakable's premise would have been to keep things in a state of suspicion of the absurd. Directors like Shyamalan, for all their apparent affection for comics, are too much filmmakers — and there's a lot of "film," as in film school, going on here — to understand that insane things like superheroes work in comics because of the form of comics, not because guys who dress up in hoods and capes and gays who dress up in moots and capes and go around saving families from serial killers are anything anybody wants to get mixed up with. (1:17) Century Plaza, Emery Bay, Empire, Jack London, Kabuki, Metreon, 1000 Van Ness, Orinda, Shattuck, Vogue. (Alvin Lu)

Venus Beauty Institute Pouring salt on les blessés d'amour is Tonie Marshall's Venus Beauty Institute, a 1999 César Award magnet that on these shores may be more likely to collect turnip bouquets. What is it about this film that struck a Gallic chord? After 110 minutes the only conclusion you're likely to walk away with is sour in-deed: can 50 million Frenchwomen really be so wrong? Venus exudes a parfum at once hitter and Cinderella-fresh: the happy-ending clinch that duly arrives here has seldom felt so inevitable yet so unconvincing. At the titular Parisian salon, a primping parlor for the desperately-seeking-mojo, age and dead flesh never quite get massaged away. Doing the kneading are several pretty needy cases; 40-year-old Angèle (fiftysomething Nathalie Baye); thirtyish Samantha (Mathilde Seigner); the 20-year-old ingenue, Marie (Audrey Tautou); and formaldehyde-flavored, septuwritten, with sharply nuanced performances, especially from Ruffalo, whose agenarian swinger-proprietress Nadine (Bulle Ogier). As the principal predator, illendearing loser has you pulling for him even as he manages to screw up every last named Angèle careens like a wrecking ball through the historic ruins of love. Slick, chance he's given. Difficult at times, You Can Count on Me is an authentic and enchatty, and very whatever as far as plot goes Venus Beauty Institute is a deluxe treatment gagingly low-key film with a sincerity that can only come from the heart. (1:32) Althat, if nothing else, will leave you looking two hours older. It's a romantic comedy bany, Bridge, Piedmont. (Taylor) from the country that gave us surrealism which just might look sexy after a few co-ginacs too. (1:55) Opera Plaza. (Harvey) Vertical Limit To the sound of one parka flapping, Vertical Limit takes a spill in its

#### Rep picks

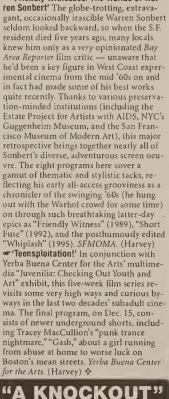
'Friendly Witnesses: The Worlds of Warren Sonbert' The globe-trotting, extrava-gant, occasionally irascible Warren Sonbert seldom looked backward, so when the S.F. resident died five years ago, many locals knew him only as a very opinionated Bay imental cinema from the mid '60s on and in fact had made some of his best works quite recently. Thanks to various preservaepics as "Friendly Witness" (1989), ma. The final program, on Dec. 15, con



**EMBARCADERO** 

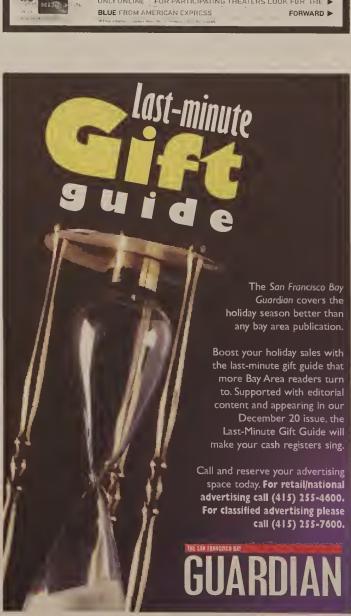
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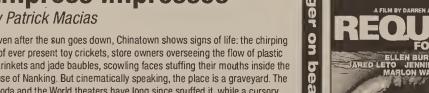


**Empress impresses** tiger By Patrick Macias 07 even after the sun goes down, Chinatown shows signs of life; the chirping of ever present toy crickets, store owners overseeing the flow of plastic trinkets and jade baubles, scowling faces stuffing their mouths inside the beat House of Nanking. But cinematically speaking, the place is a graveyard. The Pagoda and the World theaters have long since snuffed it, while a cursory stroll past the defunct Great Star Theater on Jackson Street turns up nothing more than a Bush-Cheney sign inside the "Next Change" window. But over on Grant Avenue there's a spot that movie stars, celebrities, and other Very Important People continue to bless with their presence, leaving behind a tangible legacy for you to gawk at. Behold the curious and sometimes nearly incriminating photographs in the lobby of the Empress of China restaurant (838 Grant). There's Jayne Mansfield spilling out of her bubblegum pink dress, arguably not wearing any undergarments. A pre-Curly's Gold Jack Palance enjoys fine dining paid for by starring in Italian films like Mister Scarface. Mick Jagger and Jerry Hall smile convincingly in happier times. Chuck Slaughter in San Francisco Norris somehow has his mug shot strategically placed directly over Jackie Chan's. Peter Lawford and Sammy Davis Jr. look like they are approaching the burn end of another spectacular bender in the city. Erik Estrada drinks what looks like a Shirley Temple. Vincent Price, Ricardo Montalban, Raymond Burr, and even Charlie Callas (captured sporting his trademark "funny face") - they all ate Chinese food here, at this privileged place in the space-time continuum. Dress up and look important. You might even get your picture snapped, as did three otherwise anonymous "visiting dignitaries from Japan." As long as even a whiff of celebrity can impress, the Empress of China will be there to eulogize it.





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## rep clock calendar repertory theater schedules



Behind the lens: Anne Makepeace's documentary Coming to Light: Edward S. Curtis and the North American Indians screens Fri/13-Thurs/21 at the Roxie and the Rafael Film Center. See First Runs.

Schedules are for Wed/13 through Tues/19 except where noted. Double features are noted with a •. Director and year are given when available.

ARTISTS' TELEVISION ACCESS 992 Valencia; 824-3890. \$3-5. "Traveling Underground Cinema: The Short Films of Matt McCormick and Johnne Eschleman"
Thurs, 8. With special guest Lori 5urfer. "5
and Under," new short video works by
students of the Inter Arts Center's Video Art and Video Production class Fri, 7:30. "Other Cinema": "New Experimental Works," films by Bryan Boyce, Sandra Gibson, Steve Polta, and others Sat, 8:30.

CASTRO 429 Castro; 621-6120. \$4.50-7. The Decalogue, IX and X (Kieslowski, 1988) Wed-Thurs, 2, 4:30, 7, 9:30. "Boys Life 3," short films Fri/15-Fri/22, 7, 9 (also Wed, Sat-Sun, 1, 3, 5).

FINE ARTS CINEMA 2451 5hattuck, Berk;

(510) 843-3699. \$4-7. • 5urfing for Life (Brown, 1999) Wed-Sat, 7:30 and Genghis Blues (Belic, 1999) Wed-Sat,

JAPAN INFORMATION CENTER 50 Fremont, Ste 2200; 356-2464. "Tea Ceremony" and The Way of Life in Japan: Group Portrait of High School Students" Wed, noon.

NEW PFA THEATER 2725 Bancroft, Berk; (510) 642-1412. \$3.50-6; \$7.50 double feature "The Cinema of Valerio Zurlini": La prima notte di quiete (1972) Fri, 7; Black Jesus (1968) Fri, 9:35; Le soldatesse (1965) Sat, 7; The Girl with a 5uitcase (1961) Sat, 9:20; Sun, 5:30; Violent 5ummer (1959) Sun, 7:45.

**RAFAEL FILM CENTER 1118** Fourth St, San Rafael; (415) 454-1222. \$4.50-7. Traffic (Soderbergh, 2000) Wed, 7pm Special screening with director Steven Soderbergh (\$15-20). A Time for Drunken Horses (Ghobadi, 2000) Wed Thurs, call for times. Amargosa (Robinson, 1999) Wed-Thurs, call for times. Coming to Light: Edward 5. Curtis dians (Makepeace, 2000) Fri/15-Thurs/21, call for times Suzhou River (Lou, 2000) Fri/15-Thurs/21, call for times.

RED VIC 1727 Haight; 668-3994. \$3-6.50. Pee-Wee's Big Adventure (Burton, 1985) Wed, 2, 7:15, 9:15. Stranger than Paradise (Jarmusch, 1984) Thurs, 7:15, 9:15. Two-Lane Blacktop (Hellman, 1977) Fri-Sat, 7:15, 9:25 (also Sat, 2, 4:15). Croupier (Hodges, 2000) Sun-Mon, 7:15, 9:15 (also Sun, 2, 4). Cecil B. DeMented (Waters, 2000) Ties/19-Wed/20, 7:15, 9:15 (also Wed, 2).

ROXIE 3117 16th St; 863-1087. \$3-7. Panic (Bromell, 1999) Wed-Thurs, 6, 8, 10 (also Wed, 2). Coming to Light: Edward 5. Curtis and the North American Indians (Makepeace, 2000) Fri/15-Thurs/21, 6, 8, 10 (also Wed, Sat-Sun, 2, 4).

SAN FRANCISCO CINEMATHEQUE Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission; 822-2885. Call for price. Gash (MacCullion, 1998) Fri, 8. Copresentation with Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, with shorts by William Jones, Xan Price, and Nick Zedd. "The Personal Landscape: New films by Peter Hutton, Mark LaPore, and Jeanne Liotta" Sun, 7:30.

**SFMOMA** 151 Third; 357-4000. "Friendly Witnesses: The Worlds of Warren 5on-'Program 4: Sonbert's Queer Aesthetic": "Amphetamine" (Sonbert and Appel, 1966); "Noblesse Oblige" (Sonbert, 1981); "Whiplash" (Sonbert, 1995-97) Sun, 1. "Program 8: Sonbert and Hitchcock: Narrative from a Woman's Point of View": Marnie (Hitchcock, 1964) with "A Woman's Touch" (Sonbert, 1983) Sun, 3:30.

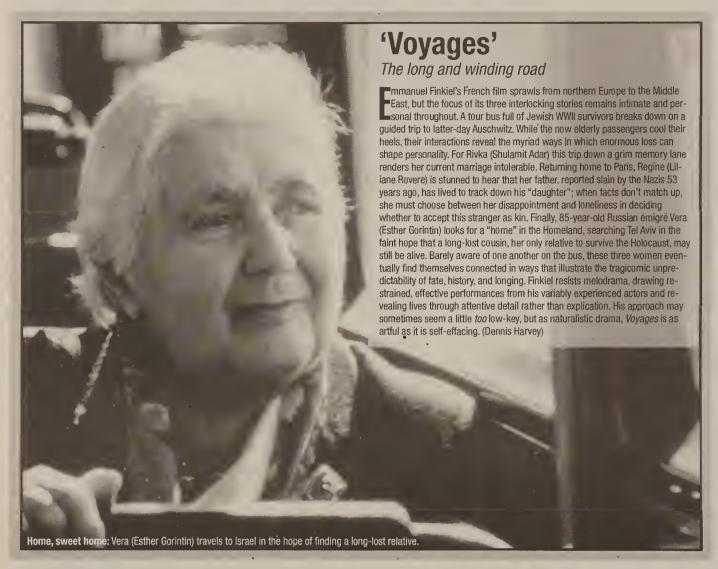
UC BERKELEY ART MUSEUM 2625 Durant, Berk; (510) 642-0808. \$4-6. "Tacita Dean/ Matrix 189 Banewl," film installation by conceptual artist Tacita Dean Fri-Sun, 11am-5pm; Thurs, 11am-9pm. Through

**UC THEATRE** 2036 University, Berk; (510) 843-FILM. \$4-6.50. 5uzhou River (Lou, 2000) Wed-Thurs, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30. Decalogue I and II (all parts Kieslowski, 1988) Fri-Sun, 4:30, 7, 9:30 (also Sat-Sun, 2); III and IV Mon/18-Wed/20, 4:30, 7, 9:30.

YERBA BUENA CENTER FOR THE ARTS 701 Mission; 978-ARTS. \$3-7. "Extreme Teens," videos created by or in collaboration with teenagers Tues-Sun, noon, 2:05, 4:15. Through Jan 28.



## movie clock first-run theaters



Show times run Wed/13-Tues/19 and are subject to change. Times in italic are bar-gain matinees. Double features are noted with a •. & Wheelchair accessible. I Listen-ing device. P Free, reduced rate, or validated parking. See Rep Clock, page 110, for information on rep houses and special film pro-

#### San Francisco

ALEXANDRIA J P Geary/18th Ave. 752-5100. Call for times. The Grinch, 102 Dalmations, Proof of Life, What Women

BALBDA 38th Ave/Balboa. 221-8184. Call theater for shows and times.

BRIDGE Geary/Blake. 352-0810. You Can Count on Me 4:20, 7, 9:40 (also Fri-Sun,

CENTURY PLAZA J P So. San Francisco, Noor off El Camino. (650) 742-9200. The Grinch Wed-Thurs, 11:35a, 1:55, 4:50, 7:20, 9:40. Fri-Tues, 12:15, 2, 2:40, 4:30, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10. Meet the Parents Wed-Thurs, 11:55a, 2:20, 4:55, 7:35, 10:10. 102 Dalmations Wed-Thurs, 11:25a, 2 (Fri-Tues, 1:50 replaces 2 show), 4:35, 7:05 (Fri-Tues, 7 replaces 7:05 show), 9:45. Proof of Life Wed-Thurs, 11:30a, 12:30, 2:45, 3:45, 5:55, 7, 9, 10:15; Fri-Tues, 11:45a, 12:30, 2:45, 3:50, 5:55, 6:55, 8:55, 10:15. Rugrats in Paris Wed-Thurs, 11:40a, 1:40, 3:40, 5:40, 7:50, 10. Fri-Tues, 11:20, 3:25, 5:25, 7:25, 9:25. The 6th Day Wed-Thurs, 11:25a, 2:20, 5, 7:40, 10:25; Fri-Tues, 11:35a, 2:20, 5, 7:45, 10:30. Unbreakable 11:50a, 2:15 (Fri-Tues, 2:20 replaces 2:15 show), 4:45, 7:25, 9:45 (Fri-Tues, no 9:45), 10:20. Vertical Limit Wed-Thurs, 11:45a, 12:45, 3, 4, 6:15, 7:15, 9:15, 10:30; Fri-Tues, 11:30a, 12:45, 2:15, 3:30, 5, 6:15, 7:45, 9, 10:30. What Women Want (starts Fri) 11:40a, 12:40, 2:25, 3:40, 5:10,

7:05, 7:55, 9:55, 10:35.

CINEMA 21 & Chestnut/Steiner, 921-6720. Proof of Life 1, 4, 7 (Tues, no 7 show), 10 (Fri-Tues 9:55 replaces 10 show)

**CLAY** Z Fillmore/Clay. 352-0810. Billy Elliot 4:45, 7:20, 9:55 (also Wed-Sun, 2:15).

CDLMA (METRD CENTER) # P 280 Metro Center, Colma. (650) 994-2503. Call for times and Fri-Tues shows. Bounce, Charlie's Angels, Dungeons and Dragons, Men of Honor, Remember the Titans.

CDRDNET & # P Geary/Arguello. 752-4400. Call for times. Vertical Limit.

One Embarcadero Center, Promenade level. 352-0810. Best in Show noon, 12:30, 2:15, 2:45, 4:30, 5, 7, 7:30, 9:20, 9:50 (Mon, no 7:30 show). Requiem for a Dream 12:10, 2:30, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15. Quills 12:15, 1, 3:30, 4, 6:30, 7:10, 9:30, 10.

EMPIRE # P West Portal/Vicente. 661-2539. Charlie's Angels Wed-Thurs, 9. Rugrats in Paris Wed-Thurs, 12:45, 2:50, 4:45, 7. Unbreakable Wed-Thurs, 12:15, 2:40, 5:05, 7:30, 10; Fri-Tues, 12:45, 3:10, 5:30, 7:55, 10:20. Vertical Limit Wed-Thurs, 11:45a, 2:20, 5, 7:40, 10:20; Fri-Tues, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:10. What Women Want (starts Fri) 1, 4, 7, 10.

FDUR STAR Clement/23rd Ave. 666-3488. The Contender Wed-Thurs, 2:40, 9:15; Fri-Tues, 2:20, 7. Genghis Khan Wed-Thurs, 12:30, 5:15, 7:15; Fri-Tues, 12, 3:40, 7:20. Remember the Titans Wed-Thurs, 12:10, 4:30, 9. Solas Wed-Thurs, 2:30-7; Fri-Tues, 12:10, 4:50, 9:20. Suzhou River (starts Fri) 1:55, 5:35, 9:15.

GALAXY & Sutter/Van Ness. 474-8700. Call for times. Bounce, The Legend of Bagger Vance, 102 Dalmations, Red Planet, The 6th Day.

KABUKI B & # P Post/Fillmore. 931-9800. Call theater for show times. Charlie's Angels, The Emperor's New Groove (starts Fri), The Grinch, Men of Honor, Meet the Parents, 102 Dalmations, Rugrats in Paris, The 6th Day, Unbreakable, What Women Want (starts Fri).

LUMIERE & # P California/Polk, 352-0810. The Broken Heart's Club Wed-Thurs, 12:20, 5:10, 9:40. Dancer in the Dark 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:20. A Hard Day's Night 12:45, 2:50, 5, 7:15, 9:30. Suzhou River Wed-Thurs, 2:55-7:30. Voyages (starts Fri) 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50.

METREDN & Fourth St/Mission. 369-6200. Call theater for show times. Bounce, Charlie's Angels, Cirque de Soleil (Imax), Cyber World (Imax), Dungeons and Dragons, Fantasia 2000 (Imax), The Grinch, Little Nicky, Meet the Parents, Michael Jordan to the Max (Imax) (starts Fri), Men of Honor, 102 Dalmations, Proof of Life, Red Planet, Rugrats in Paris, The 6th Day, Unbreakable, Vertical Limit, Wild California (Imax).

METRD Union/Webster. 931-1685. Call for times. Bounce.

1000 VAN NESS & # P 1000 Van Ness. 931-9800. Call theater for show times. Charlie's Angels, Dungeons and Dragons, The Emperor's New Groove (starts Fri), The Grinch, Little Nicky, Meet the Parents, Men of Honor, Proof of Life, Rugrats in Paris, Unbreakable, Vertical Limit, What Women Want (starts Fri), Wonder Boys.

OPERA PLAZA & Y Van Ness/Golden Gate. 352-0810. Dark Days Wed-Thurs, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50; Fri-Sun, 4:10, 9:40; Mon-Tues, 2:40, 7:50. A Time for Drunken Horses Fri-Sun, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:50; Wed-Thurs and Mon-Tues, 3, 5:30, 8. Me and Isaac Newton Wed-Thurs, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40; Fri-Sun, 1, 4, 7, 9:30; Mon-Tues, 2:30, 5, 7:30.

Panic (starts Fri) Fri-Sun, 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 9:45; Mon-Tues, 2:50, 5:20, 7:40. Venus Beauty Institute Wed-Thurs, 2:30, 5, 7:30; Fri-Sun, 1:10, 7:10; Mon-Tues, 5:10.

PRESIDID & Chestnut/Scott, 922-1318. Proof of Life Wed-Thurs, 11:30a, 2:30, 5:30, 8:30; Fri-Tues, 11:50a, 2:45, 5:40,

STDNESTDWN & グP 19th Ave/Winston. 221-8182. Call for times. 102 Dalmations, Proof of Life.

WORLD THEATER & Broadway/Columbus. 391-1393. Call theater for shows and times.

Oakland

GRAND LAKE & JP 3200 Grand, Oakl. 452-3556. Bounce Fri-Tues, 9:15. Charlie's Angels Wed-Thurs, 12:15, 2:15, 4:15, 6:15, Anges Wed-Hulls, 12:15, 2:15, 4:15, 6:15, 8:15, 10:15; Pri-Tues, 3:15, 8:15, 10:15. Dungeons and Dragons noon, 2:30 (Fri-Tues, 2:40 replaces 2:30 show), 5, 7:30, 10. The Grinch 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9. Meet the Parents 1, 7 (Fri-Tues, 6 replaces 7 show). 102 Dalmations Fri-Tues, 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7. The 6th Day Wed-Thurs, 4, 9:15.

JACK LDNDDN CINEMA 100 Washington, Jack London Square, Oakl. 433-1320. Charlie's Angels Wed-Thurs, 11:20a, 1:55, 4:30, 7, 9:30; Fri-Tues, 7:05, 9:30. Dude Where's My Car? (starts Fri) 11:10a, 1:20, 3:35, 5:50, 8:05, 10:20. The Emperor's New Groove (starts Fri) 11a, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:55. The Grinch Wed-Thurs, 11:15a, 1:50, 4:45, 7:15, 10; Fri-Tues, 11:25a, 2:10, 4:45, 7:15, 10. Meet the Parents Wed-Thurs, 8:25, 10:50. Men of Honor Wed-Thurs, 10:30a, 1:25, 4:20, 7:25, 10:25. Miss Congeniality Sat, 7(sneak preview). 102 Dalmations Wed-Thurs 11a, 1:35, 4:15, 7:10, 9:45. Fri-Tues, 11:20a, 1:50, 4:25, 7:10. Proof of Life 12:30, 3:45, 7 (Sat, no 7

show), 10:10 (Fri-Tues, 10:15). Rugrats in Paris 11:30a, 1:45, 4, (also Wed-Thurs, 6:30). Unbreakable 11:35a, 2:15, 5, 7:3! 10:20 (Fri-Tues, 4:55, 7:30, 10:10). Vertical Limit Wed-Thurs, 10:35a, 11:05a, 1:30, 2, 4:25, 4:55, 7:20, 7:50, 10:15, 10:45; Fri-Tues, 11:15a, 2:05, 5, 7:55, 9:45, 10:50. What Women Want (starts Fri) 11:05a, 1:55, 4:50, 7:45, 10:35.

PARKWAY 1834 Park, Oakl. 814-2400. Almost Famous Wed-Thurs, 9:45. Best in Show Fri and Monday-Tues, 9:15 (also Fri and Mon, 6:30); Sat-Sun 6, 9. Panic (starts Fri) 7. Pay It Forward Wed, 6:30. Remember the Titans Wed-Thurs, 7. Rocky Horore Picture Show Sat, midnight. This is Spinal Tap Wed, 9:15; Fri-Tues, 9:45. Thrillville Nursery: The Adventures of Robin Hood Tues and Thurs, 6:30 (also Thurs, 9:15).

PIEDMONT & Piedmont/41st St, Oakl. 843-3456. Best in Show Wed-Thurs, 4:45, 7:30, 9:45. Billy Elliot Wed-Thurs 4:15, 7, 9:25; Fri-Tues 4:15, 6:45, 9:15 (also Sat-Sun, 1:40). Quills Fri-Tues, 4, 7, 9:45 (also Sat-Sun, 1:15). You Can Count on Me 4:30, 7:15, 9:35 (also Sat-Sun, 2).

#### Berkeley area

ACT I AND II J P Center/Shattuck, Berk. 843-3456. Best in Show 7:10, 9:20 (also Sat-Sun, 2:10, 4:40). Requiem for a Dream 7, 9:30 (also Sat-Sun, 2, 4:30).

ALBANY & 2 1115 Solano, Albany. 843-3456. Billy Elliot 6:45, 9 (also Sat-Sun, 1:45, 4:15). You Can Count on Me 6:30, 8:45 (also Sat-Sun, 1:30, 4)

**CALIFDRNIA** ♥ P Kittredge/Shattuck, Berk. 843-3456. Chocolat Sat, 6:45 (sneak preview). Meet the Parents 2:10, 4:30, 6:45 (Sat, no 6:45 show), 9:10. The 6th Day 2:20, 4:45, 7:15, 9:40. Quills 1:30, 4:15, 7,

**ELMWDDD** 2966 College, Berk. 649-0530. Call for shows and times.

EMERY BAY & J P 6330 Christie, Emeryville. 420-0107. Call for times. Charlie's Angels, Dungeons and Dragons, The Grinch, Men of Honor, 102 Dalma-tions, Proof of Life, Rugrats in Paris, The 6th Day, Unbreakable, Vertical Limit.

DAKS & # 1875 Solano, Berk. 526-1836. Dude Where's My Car? (starts Fri) 6, 8, 9:45 (also Sat-Sun 12, 2, 4). Legend of Bagger Vance Wed-Thurs, 9. Little Nicky Wed-Thurs, 9:10. 102 Dalmations Fri-Tues 7 (also Sat-Sun 12:15, 2:30, 4:45), Pay It Forward Wed-Thurs, 6:30. Remember the Titans Wed-Thurs, 7; Fri-Tues, 9.

DRINDA & # 4 Orinda Theater Square, Orinda. 254-9060. Best in Show Wed-Thurs, 6:45, 8:40; Fri-Tues, 9. Miss Congeriality Sat, 7 (sneak preview). 102 Dalmations Fri, 7; Sat-Tues, 12:15, 2:30, 4:45 (also Sun-Tues, 7). Proof of Life Wed-Thurs, 7, 9:45; Fri-Tues, 6:45, 9:30 (also Sat-Tues, 12, 3:30) Rugrats in Paris Wed-Thurs, 5. Unbreakable 6:30, 9 (Fri-Tues, 8:45 replaces 9 show)(also Sat-Tues, 12:45,

SHATTUCK CINEMAS & 2230 Shattuck. Berk. 843-3456. Bamboozled 8:40. Dancer in the Dark 2, 5, 8. Dark Days 1:05, 3:15, In the Dark 2, 5, 8. Dark Days 1:05, 3:15, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30. Dungeons and Dragons 2, 4:30, 7, 9:50. The Emperor's New Groove (starts Fri) 1:10, 3:10, 5:10, 7:10, 9:10. The Grinch Tues, 2:15, 7:20. Me and Isaac Newton 2:15, 4:45, 7:15 (Fri-Mon, 7:20 replaces 7:15 show), 9:40 (Tues, no 2:15, 7:20 shows). Panic 1, 3:10, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50 (Fri-Tues, 3:15 replaces 3:10, shows). Panic 1, 3:10, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50 (Fri-Tues, 3:15 replaces 3:10, shows). shows). Panic 1, 3:10, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50 (Fri-Tues, 3:15 replaces 3:10 show; 9:35 re-places 9:50 show). Rugrats in Paris 12:40, 2:40, 4:40, 6:40. Solas Wed-Thurs 1:45, 6:45. Unbreakable 12:45, 1:50, 3:20, 4:35, 6,7:10 (Fri-Tues, 7:15 replaces 7:10 show), 8:45, 9:45. Venus Beauty Institute Wed-Thurs 4:15, 9. What's Cooking? 1:20, 4, 6:30, 9:10 (Fri-Tues, 9:15 replaces 9:10, 6:30, 9:10 (Fri-Tues 9:15 replaces 9:10

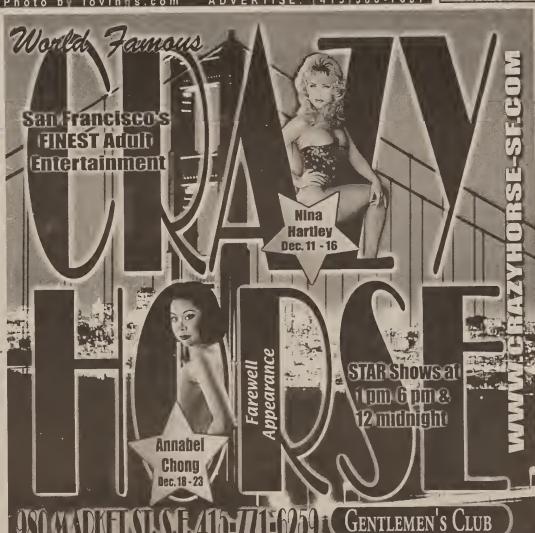
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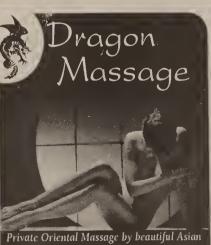
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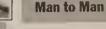


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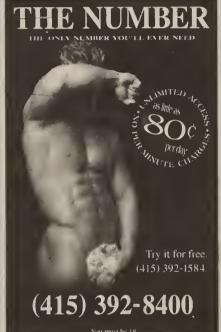
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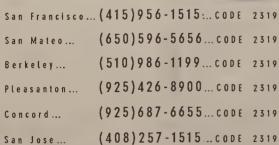
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### WOMENEKINGMEN

All you sexy males out there, I'm a 20 yr. old, multiracial female. I'm looking for someone who's ready to kick it. I'm an outgoing person. I'm a real female. I don't like to play games. I'm not about games. I like to have fun. If that's you, leave me a message. **Box 9064**.

This is Maryanne. I hope you're having a great holiday This is learyatine. I hope you be having a great indicay season 8 getting ready for the big holidays coming up. I'm 5'7\*, have green eyes & light-auburn hair. I'm 5'7\*, have green eyes & light-auburn hair. I'm Swedish & Italian. I'm full-figured. I'm looking for someone who's between 18 & 35 yrs. old & who's preferably Asian, Filipino, Hispanic, white or Hawaiian. I want someone who knows what they want in life, who's outgoing but can also be shy & who's a great listener. If this is you, lacen send me a message 8 ps. \$\frac{8145}{2}\$ please send me a message. Box 8145

My name's Sonya. I'm 21 yrs. old. I'm 5'3'' 8 weigh 135 lbs. I'm looking for someone between 18 & 24 yrs. old to talk to. I enjoy going to clubs 8 having fun. **Box 10663.** 

This is Kim. I'm 5'5' & weigh 155 lbs. I'm single, sexy & sophisticated. I'm also financially stable. I have long, black hair. I'm a very high maintenance, African-American lady. I love to laugh & have fun. I'm great with my hands. I enjoy giving & receiving massages, candlelight dinners & I love wearing lingerie, satin, silk, lace & leather. Box 7235.

 $1\mbox{'m}\,5\mbox{'11"}\,8$  have hazel eyes,  $1\mbox{'m}$  Hispanic,  $1\mbox{'m}\,a\,26$  yr, old in the San Jose area,  $1\mbox{'m}\,a$  single mom of 2 beautiful children. I'm looking for a long-term relationship. I'm looking for a man who's 5'10' or taller. I do have a pierced tongue as well as a pierced eyebrow. I'm very professional. **Box 3736.** 

I'm a mature, Caucasian female in my late 40's. I'm about 5'7" tall. I have dark-auburn hair, green eyes, fair skin & cute freckles from the sun. I'd also like to find a companion as well as a friend & lover. Box 3350.

### MENERINWOMEN

My name's Chris. I'm a single, white, 25 yr. old male. I'm attractive. I have brown hair I keep neatly in a ponytail. I have a tattoo. I do have Christian beliefs. That means I believe in God. I'm visually impaired. I'm partially sighted, but still 100% man. I'd like to meet a woman who's ready not only to have a monogamous relationship willing to be friends as well as lovers. Box 7463.

I'm just wondering where a really nice guy who works too hard can find a nice lady to go out & have good times with. I'm in my 40's. I'm a little bit bashful or shy. I'm a nice guy, I'm 5'10' & weigh about 170 lbs. I have dark hair & light-blue eyes. **Box 6925.** 

My name's Joe. I'm a 47 yr. old, white professional. I'm about 5111" & weigh around 200 lbs. I'm also a part-time parent so I kind of stay pretty active & busy with them. I like mountain climbing. **Box 11016.**  I'm a 5'10" tall, 215 lb., brown-skinned, brown-eyed brother with a neatly trimmed goatee & straight teeth. I'm in the east Bay area. I'm looking to fill that void in my life. That void would be filled by an African-American queen. I'm taking resumes ladies & the best qualified candidate will get the job. **Box 10891.** 

I'm a single dad. I'm a Christian. I'm in my late 30's. I'm I'm a single dad. I'm a Crinstian. I'm in my late 30s. I'm 5"10". I'm slim, white & have brown hair. I enjoy all aspects of the outdoors from biking to being in the mountains. I'm looking for honesty first as well as the willingness to open up & become true friends first. My best attribute would probably be kindness. Box 7624.

I'm an attractive, professional, white male from the San Jose area. I'm 38 yrs. old, 6'2" tall & weigh 200 lbs. I'm physically fit, trim as well as both emotionally & financially stable. I'm a single dad. **Box 7557.** 

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access a voice greeting within 30 seconds of your call. Cost is \$1.99 per minute. You must be at least 18 years of age.

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Connections, 520 Hampshire Street, San Francisco, CA 94110-1417. It will be forwarded to the advertiser

Creative, attractive, tall, fit, funny SJF seeks similar adjectives in non-smoking 5M, 30-50. Bonus for screwball comedy, jazz, basketball fans. **±**4866 (12/26/00)

athletic, seeks companion 40-50yrs old. Intelligent, nice, in-ternational spirit.

GOODESS SEEKS KING

GOODESS SEEKS KING Big, African Goddess, seeks King to complete Queendom Me: romantic, driven, intense. You: 25-40, bend over, slim/muscular, Cunnilingus ex-pert. Communicator. LTR only. Romantic.

Te6519 (02/07/01)
UniQUE BLEND
of Eastern and Western
philosophies, very attractive,
sensual, playful, intelligent and
open-minded SAPF, 33, ISO
handsome, intelligent, stimulating and successful 5WM, 3140, to explore the subtile yet
deep pleasures of life. Are you
exceptional and passionate?
TESES (07/01) **≖**6562 (02/07/01)

MARVELOUS
MIDLIFE SWEETHEART
looking for the same for LTR. I am 5WF, 5'4", very attractive, honest, fit, fun, loving/lovable. I like home, walks, outdoors, antiques, laughing, movies, music, honesty. You are 48-58, over 5'7", n/s. No heavy dinkers. **≖**6579 (02/07/01)

### RUSSIAN-JEWISH FROM BELORUSS

Russian-Jewish woman from 8eloruss tall, classy, romantic Capricorn, long legs, green eyes, great smile, radiant, warm heart Looking for lifetime partner age 50-60; romantic, tall, sincere, successful, hon-est, good heart.

NON WORKAHOLIC S F LAWYER NON WORKANOLIC ST CAWTER
seeks wise, sweet, loving man.
I'm 45, Midwest born, east
coast educated, would love to
find friendship and more, share
laughs, ideas, adventures, life
stories, sensuality with an
evolved, open-minded, down-toearth nutriting man. earth, nurturing man **≖**6529 (02/07/01)

#### REFLECTIVE. **ROUSING REDHEAD**

Approachable 5WF, 5'4", very attractive, humörous, honest, fit, fun, lovable I enjoy my home life, walks, being out doors, antiquing, conversation, laughing, music, movies. You are 45-60, over 5'7", N/S, no heavy tripick.

### **BROWN SUGAR**

Southern belle, elegant, available, desires to meet tail, distinguished, 64+, heterosexuai male to enjoy ballet, opera, symphony, ballroom dancing. N/5, N/ Or, N/O. Oisease free. Must be marriage mInded enjoy life and grow old together in our Golden Years.

**☎**6753 (02/28/01)

If you are 48+, loving, open-minded, gentleman profession-al, call me, here I am. 48, pe-tite AF, longhair, brown eyes, seeking 5WM for LTR. **☎**6633 (02/07/01)

### FOR US TO MEET

You: Ambitious, clean cut, tail, professional/financially secure passionate, emotionally avail-able, 30-40. Me: Ambitious, beautiful, sexy, confidant, pe-tite, smart, feminine, 30 looks 25. Ready for something real. **☎**6600 (02/07/01)

### PROFESSIONAL JF/SON

European sensibility, Mediter-ranean looks, seeks easy-going, humorous man, 40s-50s, good with kids, crisis, bro-ken household objects, warring relatives, malfunctioning cars, steady as a rock, smart as a whip for eternity.

**≖**6533 (02/07/01)

Healthy nurse, 43, tender heart, enjoying Holy Spirit. Tai Chi/movement, song, East/West arts-medicine. Seeking professional as friend, future mate, husband to create enriching family life. You have positive coping skills, strength, ciarity, knowledge and humbleness. **≖**6719 (02/28/01)

I am a good looking lady, in mid 40s, about 5'8", 150 lbs, with short curly har, grey eyes, I like games, kissing, touching, talks, walks, reading, movies, I am also somewhat dominant. Seeking SM, who will get to know me as a person, is hopelessly romantic, who knows how to court and treat a lady. #8707 (02/28/01) **☎**6707 (02/28/01)

### **NICE PACKAGE!**

It's "OK" to open before Xmas If you are 5WPM, N/5, 40s, emotionally mature and availabie, good communicator, like romantic diners and creating memorable times with volup-tuous, slim, 5'6", playful, auburn, blue-eyed type. Looks good in sllk or jeans. <del>2</del>6580 (02/07/01)

#### **EMPHASIS-PASSION**

Very pretty, slender, sensual, SJF, 44, eloquent, animal/nature lover, athletic, broadly educated. Seeks attractive, graduate degreed, athletic 5WM 450, with integrity, is articulate, romantic, open to a family.

#6146 (12/25/00)

Are you an honest, loving, car-ing, no vices 5WM, tall 50-65? Me: 49, cute, Jewish noncon-formist, 10 personality. Likes garage sales, dining out, movies, casual dresser for LTR. **≈**5475 (1/30/01)

WHO LOVES COOL
BLACK WOMEN? 8F, 25, wants
to know. If you're a "beautiful"
man that loves BF, Let's talk.
Race totally unimportant. 27

**☎**6180 (12/30/00)

#### TROPHY MAN

in my eyes) wanted by attractive, slim, blonde and financially secure, intelligent lady. He should be 55+, young at heart and financially secure.

■6749 (02/28/01)

### PRIVATE DANCER

PRIVATE DANCER
Brainy beauty, 49, international
ecommerce. 1'll never be your
beast of burden. Are you rough
enough, tough enough, rich
enough, soft enough?

\$\pi(6708 (02/28/01))\$

### ATTRACTIVE APF

39, educated, sincere, passionate and no children seeks WPM, 45-58, successful, loving, caring and faithful for LTR/possible marriage. N/S.

#5851 (12/12)
Woman, 42, nature-lover, slender, dark hair, green eyes, seeks warm, kind, intelligent, kindred splrit. Letter response only piease.

### EROTIC

EXPLORATION
tantric more. Pretty fit, erotic
semiAsian, sane, successful,
fun, no baggage, STOs, vices.
Similar, medium-tall SWM, 3850. Monogamous open-minded
LTR. OK, submissive. IMPRESSIVE BEAUTY

imPRESSIVE BEAUTY
Pretty, slender, petite, muscular, fair, long hair, feminine,
complexiy educated, artistic
SJF, passionate, original, sensitive, spiritual, 44. Oesires
deeply thoughtful, bright, goodlooking, educated, sensual,
athletic SWM, 42-50, open to
commitment and family, pleasure of body and mind.

≈6147 (12/25/00)

### ATTRACTIVE ASIAN

professional female, excellent shape, 5 10°, 145lbs., fit, sincere, honest, very good-looking Chinese female, educated and professional seeking tall, at tractive, professional male under 37. Please respond if interested.

**☎**6541 (02/07/01)

### **ART-DAMAGED DOMINATRIX**

looking for a petite nerd to push around. SM, bondage, housecleaning, vaiet duties, and general assistance required. Ex-punks especially welcome.

**☎**6730 (02/28/01)

FTT ASIAN
Professional with looks and
substance seeks lifetime partner in a successful, nonsmoking, DWPM, fit, 40s and ready
for a meaningful future. **☎**6732 (02/28/01)

DIYMPIC FENCING CHAMPION
Beautiful SVM; young-looking
38, 5'8", romantic, adventurous, seeking handsome, accomplished man, 35-45, who's
warmhearted, even-tempered,
financially/emotionally secure
for LTR, maybe marriage/children. Enjoy jazz clubs, dancing,
cooking, tennis, hiking, skiing
and more.

**1**6726 (02/28/01)

VERY NICE ASIAN
LADY 5AF, 29, very attentive, sexy, sweet and nice smile, sincere, kind, warm, romantic, good cook, You: SWM, kind, successful homeowner. For you I will take care and make your dreams come true.

JEWISH CHER TYPE
49, transplanted Miamian,
seeks financially secure, tali,
SWM, nonsmoker, non drinker
50-65, sense of humor is vitally
important, likes garage sales,
scrabble, pool, drining out, theater, must love dogs, looking
for honesty, sincerity, LTR.

#5487 (01/30/01)

### **EXOTIC DESSERT**

Chocolate cake seeks choco-late icing. Attractive, slender, fit, and sensual 8F, 5'5", 135 lbs., enjoys traveling, cooking, jogging, music and theater wants versatile, romantic, com #6745 (02/28/01)

### STREETWISE PROFESSOR

who would rather die alone than use the word "attractive" in this ad. Lean, lithe, dark, disarming, bawdy, heady, playful, cunous, mischievous, visual, tactile, brave, 5'6", 122 lbs., great legs, ageless 48, more. Seeking strong man, 42-52 years young: sexy, sharp, fit, creative, pensive, staid, solvent, wise, alive. **☎**6594 (02/07/01)

BF STRONG WILLED

seeks easygoing professional 5WM, with goatee, short hair, 5'6', thin build, small endowed for long term relationship. Hon-est N/s, N/or. **☎**6645 (02/07/01)



### **BOUNCE!**

Susty, Black beauty, tall, seeks two or three other, shapely, buxom, clear, discreet, attractive, women over age 40 to "please". No drugs or alcohol, just hot, fun! **☎**6727 (02/28/01)

HOLD ON MY HEART GWF, Anos, 5'5", full-ligured, brown/blue, tattooed, tomboy-ish. Into music, movies, flea markets, gym, weekends, passionate kisses. Seeks single, tomboy femme, 30-45, employed, honest, sincere, healthy/sane, fun. N/S, N/OR, Bi's, kids, drama. East 8ay. #6649 (2) 077 (201) **☎**6649 (02/07/01)

Straight but very curious w/f 30's seeks other women age open for sensual exploration. I'm busty, slim, pretty, and very sensual. bi-nous mom's

most welcome!

**☎**6611 (02/07/01)

### TINA, I THINK

You answered my personal ad on November 6th, my name is Karina, I accidentally lost your phone number. You are in real estate, 31, blue eyed and I would like to talk to you again. Next time I'll be more careful. **☎**6506 (02/07/01)

Pleasure seeking 8utch Dyke isO high femme who takes what she wants. You be over 30, fun-loving and into exploring more than Macy's. Me: novice Top into sexual expression. Let's see if the chemistry is there!

### **GIRLFRIENDS**

5eeking other women straight or gay over 21 to go out dancing in clubs, see live music or shoot pool in bars or cafes.

25950 (01/31/01)

### **ROMANTIĆ**

and sensual, petite, busty, pro-fessional looking for same for erotic times. I'm clean, N/S, N/O, no butches, bi-curious. 5'5", 120 ibs., good sense of **☎**6717 (02/28/01)

White female bi, busty, clean, discreet, honest, friendly and open-minded seeks female for fun in and out of bedroom. Let's meet for coffee.



### SIZE QUEEN HERE

**□**6568 (02/07/01)

MY THROAT
Is like fucking butter. Warm, inviting, deep throat looking for masculine man who enjoys a good hole. (-), 37, 185/bs., tats, shaved head. **\$6530 (02/07/01)** 

### **MILDLY COOL** GWM seeks same. 31, 6'1", 180 lbs., good-looking. Likes: Getting stone, PJ Harvey, elec tronica, Mexican food, working out. Be nice, cute, drama-free No sluts/tweakers.

**☎**6653 (02/07/01)

### **UNIQUE EUROPEAN**

NORMAL STRAIGHT APPEARING GUY Looking for same 21-36yo. I like to Work Out, Wrestle, play pinball, darts and pool, road trips, the mountains/coast. GWM, 36 Seeks charming man from Quebec or over the Atlantic. Let's start at the museum for tea or wine...

\$\Pi 6593 (02/07/01)\$

**BI CURIOUS TOP** PWM, handsome, friendly, athletic, fit, 49, 5'8", 165, swimmers build seeks bi or bi curious bottom. Oiscrete, healthy, fit. Bubble butt a plus. **☎**6543 (02/07/01)

### APPEALING AND **SMART TOO**

**☎**6650 (02/07/01)

old, foreign guy setening a year old likewise foreigner. #6599 (02/07/01)

Novice 8IWM, 54, 6'5", 195
STO free, attractive, intelligent, nice person. Seeks same qualities in others. Enjoy tenderness. Plues for novices, BIF, straight men.

**☎**6748 (02/28/01)

8ig, fat, huge cock sucker sucks big, fat, huge cocks. Squirt for mell \$\pi 6442 (1/16/01)\$

### SIAN MODEL IN LA
Athletic, masculine, HIV-, 24
y/o, guy in L. A. seeking straight
acting, athletic, Italian guy
under 35 y/o. I'm tired of the
"Hollywood" attitude and ready
to meet a down-to-earth guy.
Let's swap pics over the net
and see if the attraction is mutual.

**☎**6647 (02/07/01)

### DOWN ON

YOUR KNEES! Attractive, slim MWM ISO bi or straight men who would love to perform orally on me. My wife does not like to suck. 5lim and Asian a plus.

**≖**6139 (1/18/01)

48, GWM, average build seeks petite GWM, endowed bottom for good times on regular basis. \$\frac{1}{2}6640 (02/07/01)\$

### SILICON VALLEY GUY

SILCON VALLEY GUY
5'9", brown/brown, hairy
chest, 180-200lbs, would like
to meet very hairy other guys
for fun, romance and friendship. No fats over 250lbs or
convicts. Orop me a line at PO
80X 2234 Los Gatos, CA
95031 or leave voicebox mes-

**☎**6333 (1/16/01)

Regular gay male, 34 year old n/s, 5'8", down-to-earth. Enjoy movies, restaurants, etc. I m seeking new friendship with gay White male around same age maybe. Relationship down the line, nonsmoking only please. **☎**6526 (02/07/01)

### **LATIN LUST**

BiWM, 33, br/br, 5'7", great shape, healthy, tan. Looking for bi Latin men, muscular, hand-some, smooth, 20-33 who want complete oral service. Serious **☎**6521 (02/07/01)

### **LATINO WANTED**

**☎**6720 (02/28/01)

### ATTRACTIVE **ASIAN MALE**

I am 34 years old, 5'9", 160 lbs., good shape, fit, sincere, honest, handsome, educated, professional, easygoing and easy to get along with. Seeking tall, attractive GWM under 40 years for relationship and friendship.

**☎**6542 (02/07/01)

### HARD SPANKING NEEDED

WM, 40s, tall, slim; nice, smooth, exercised buns, heaithy, seeks warmhearted step dad/brother with strong hand/strap. Any race/age, no

### **☎**6588 (02/07/01) 200+LBS. SANTA BEAR WANTED

DEAR WANTED

Adventurous, good looking, healthy, 190 lbs., HIV-, 40+ GWM, wants fun times with a 50-60 year old jolly gent that likes to have a good time. Please call if this sounds good

**☎**6636 (02/07/01) \*

My fetish is orally worshipping black cock surrounded by lots of pubic hair. I am a WM, N/s good body. Prefer weekdays at your place.

\$\$\pi 6752 (02/28/01)\$

**☎**6735 (02/28/01)

### SEEKS STRAIGHT CELTIC MAN

who appreciates kicking back for stress reduction by talented mature, discreet 5 F GWM. Es-sentials: Scots, Irish, Welsh. Over 30 and over 5'9" with hairy muscular bod. Married preferred. No strings. No recip-rocation.

**☎**6616 (02/07/01)

### SUB STUD **ISO DOM STUD**

PGWM, 6'2", 160, 32 ISO similar for dating to LTR, into lite BD/5M, outdoors, sports, humor and thinking.

### INDEPENDENT

Question; tell me what you think about this. 26, 5'6", 135lbs., Asian seeking stocky Black/Latino top men in East Bay with mustache/beard for friendship and more. Find out how I could get down like.

### **SENIOR GWM**

5'7", 130 lbs., looking to give expert service to verbally domi-nant topman, height/weight proportionate. **☎**6084 (1/08/01)

■6084 (1/08/01)

NOT A ONE
NIGHT STAND
Handsome, talented, tali, 22
year old, seif aware, self assured GWM, possessing everything but Mr. Right. Seeks
someone as unique as I am,
who values friendship, love,
honesty and the has the ability
to have a good time. This is the
season for romancel
■6583 (02/07/01)

### **BIG LOADS?**

**☎**6569 (02/07/01)

### **QUIETLY DOMINANT**

**NICE BOTTOM** 

**≖**6358 (1/16/01)

### ARMENIAN

Handsome, 41, 5'9', 160 lbs, black/brown, professional, romantic in Los Angeles. Seeking masculine, straight acting M. 25-40, honest, healthy, for dating and traveling.

**☎**5649 (12/28/00)

Italian top man wants 8lack, Asian and Latino guys to "ge off" with be masculine, in shape and under 45. Top or bottom

**\$6169 (12/25/00)** 

### AD OF THE WEEK

**OUT GLM, 28** 6'1", Pisces, bottom, looking for LTR. I'm sentimental, look-ing for LTR, likes hugging, cud-dling, kissing, movies, waiks, park, quiet times, clubs, shop-ping.

Our AD OF THE WEEK advertiser will receive a gift certificate for dinner for two (up to \$75 value) at Moss Beach Distillery, Beach Way and Ocean Blvd., Moss Beach, CA 94038. (650)728-0220. **☎**6751 (02/28/01)

#### SEXY SON SEEKS GENEROUS DAD

This 26 year old long blonde haired, smooth faces surfer with good body seeks older ex tremely generous gentieman to help work in my virgin bottom. I love oral and discreet fun times. I'll blow more than your

or bisexual guys who want a discreet erotic encounter on your terms. WM, 43, looking for another sllm, healthy, straight-looking guy to please.

STRAIGHT

**≖**6570 (02/07/01) 6'2", slim, attractive, quick, cynical, mind, wildly varied interests seeks similar HIV-, ma ture, no Castro Clones, good personality, for dating 23-27.



### PASSIONATE

attractive, active, athletic pro-fessional SWM, 54, financially

### DANGER! **MATURE SBM!**

I'm 60 and don't need a re-count. Other stats: 5'9", 180 lbs., seeking slim, attractive woman no older than 60. Any **☎**6746 (02/28/01) SENSUAL

**WOMAN SOUGHT** 

### HONEY I'M STILL FREE

**≖**6634 (02/07/01)

Me: 32, 5'10145, blue eyes, professional, Jewish, open-minded; you: between 25-35, open to race, interests, be open-minded, show me new things, I cook, love movies, work in nonprofit. Enjoy. **☎**6596 (02/07/01)

### RESPOND! Call 1-900-328-0133.

You must be age 18+.Calls cost \$1.99/min. billed to your phone OR **USE YOUR CREDIT CARD 1-877-337-3292.** 

## GUARDIAN IN COCCION

### **EXCEPTIONAL**

warmhearted, trim WM, youngish 57,5' 10°, seeks pretty woman, 40-4B, culturally diverse, with social terests and similar qualities.

RORN TO FAT PHSSY

Straight, disease free WM, looking for one special female who enjoys having a male go down on her without having to return the favor. Tireless tongue will work as long as it takes to bring you total satisfaction.

**≈**6574 (02/07/01)

### BLACK IRISH, HANDSOME

Sensuous, athletic artist/designer 39, 5'11", 165 with blue eyes and great smile seeks a strong-willed, passion-ate woman around 35 with whom to savor life.

\$6617 (02/07/01) Tall, handsome Black male seeking attractive, young female 29-45 who is open minded, free-spirited, enjoys life, no games and head trips for walks on the beach and late night din-

**☎**6629 (02/07/01)

40+, bright, adventurous, slender, dominant-minded PF sought by tall, fit, handsome, intelligent, accomplished, loving, gentle 50+ DWPM. I'm zany, creative, LTR minded with a great sense of humor.

### **HEY BEAUTIFUL!**

**☎**6523 (02/07/01)

Tall, lanky, blonde German, 50s, gentle, loving, versatile, spiritual, handsome, kind, seeks pretty, slender, uncon-ventional Asian female for joy-ous relationship. Letter Photo, P08 1329, Pt. Reyes, 94957.

### LOOKING **FOR LOVE**

SEEKING AN

**ASIAN BEAUTY** 

or fun, romance, travel and ad-enture. Generous, sincere and assionate. This European man looking for youl **☎**6721 (02/28/01)

#6724 (02/28/01) **LET'S RELAX** TOGETHER

Looking for a non-committed hot woman for a mutual massage. That could end up in love-making. Just pure fun. I am an artist. You, I hope have experience. 18+. Try it you might enjoy yourself.

26313 (1/16/01)

DARE

Tall, good-looking guy looking for one exhibitionistic woman for naughty, daning fun in the dirty. We'll play "tag this", without getting caught. I'll go first? This is playful fun but, if it leads to romance so much the better.

**☎**6742 (02/28/01)

Attractive, educated, classy DBM, 40, 6'1", 198. Seeking a stylish, sensuous, S/D/WF, 5'6"-5'10", 26'42. Pluses: at tractive, intelligent and fit. Email available.

MEOW?

Tomcat, 26 seeks pussycat 21, 31. I'm cute, fit, fun, great ass, pretty eyes. I value personality over looks. Let's get frisky. Meow?

**☎**6123 (12/25/00)

**GREAT CATCH** 

SWM, 61", 185, well-built, muscular bod, 38, looks younger, very sexy, romantic, passionate, intelligent, witty, monogamous with varied interests seeks very attractive, similar female for sharing the diversity that life has to offer from a prief romance to soulmate.

brief romance to soulmate.

#6174 (1/13/01)

88W with style an substance desired for intimacy and more, by attractive, clean-cut, nice, spiritual, sophisticated, Persian-born White male, 44 with MA and M8A degrees.

#6709 (02/28/01)

PALE, RUBENESQUE (chubby, fat, voluptuous) natural redhead, any height, age wanted by handsome, romantic, loyal, passionate, monogamous Mediterranean, 6:2", 29, brown haired, green eyed WM. **\$6631 (02/07/01)** 

### TRUTH IN ADVERTISING:
Man, 54, with unusually large capacity for thoughtfulness, kindness, passion seeks woman with same capacities and unusually busty womanly form. P.O. 80 x 282876, S.F., 94128.

0

(0)

GUARDIAN

DE

△ 56390 (1/16/01)

### INDIAN

sought by creative, active SAI 29. Likes writing, Indie films, road trips, Indian/Thai food, current events, learning. You: funny, adventurous, honest,

**≈**6538 (02/07/01)

SPECIAL FRIEND

### DAMN SWEET

VOUNG MAN

32, active, thinking, happy, silly, handsome, Jewish (raised), self-deprecating, stupid (see?) and affectionate, seeks articulate female (any age, race, favorite ice cream) to argue with, cuddle, respect. **5**6747 (02/28/01)

T6747 (02/28/01)

I've been told I am a very very good lover by not too many women. Tall SWM will satisfy your needs from mild to kinky.

T6550 (02/07/01)

SWM, handsome Italian American man, 46, 6'3", 170, athlet ic, well-endowed, knows how to use it ISO intimate encounters with women seeking same, 30-50.

**☎**6731 (02/28/01)

WWM, 30s, 6'1", 180, tired of lonely weekends, ISO SF for shopping, blike/hike and companionship. Contra Costa County only.

#6734 (02/28/01)

GERMAN German speaking AM (environ-mental professional). Open minded, well informed and trav-eled ISO likewise woman for conversation and friendship.

**☎**6559 (02/07/01) **MEETS WEST** 

Very handsome SWM, 30s seeks Asian princess, 20s for fun and game, motorcycle rides to the beach, green tea and ancient incantations.

26758 (02/28/01)

SERIOUS

**HEAR** the voice mail

introductions of SEXY,

**LOCAL SINGLES** 

just waiting to GET TO-

**GETHER** with

others in the bay area.

Listen to them now..call

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press 2 to browse ads

1-877-337-3292

VISA Moster Cord 110 (7) um You should hear

what you're missing.

Use your credit card on a toll free-number...call

SOUL WORK
ISO a life partner for a calm, tender relationship based on spiritual, emotional, sexual exploration, fun, dance, good food, family and community. **☎**5333 (12/28/00)

### SEEKING SINGLE FEMALE

### **HANDSOME** PRINCE

**☎**6549 (02/07/01)

**BLISSFUL LATINO!** 

Seeks creative, independent woman with warm spirit and optimistic mind. I am 30 years young, athletic, poetic, open minded. Interests include travel, archeology, art, friendships, transformations, world music, Latin foods, film, hiking, the sublime. Let's connect! **☎**6610 (02/07/01)

SWM, 54, attractive, fit, 6'2", 200lbs., light brown/blue, artistic, intelligent, edectic taste in art, music, film etc., loves outdoors seeks warmhearted, attractive, fit female for activities partner, friend, and?

**≖**6564 (02/07/01)

Asian woman sought by Euro-pean man for travel, fun and adventure. This financially se-cure man will be a river to you needs

**HEY LOVE!** 

I am a single, young, 8lack male ISO a PWF that's gener-ous with pretty feet I am into pleasing the woman whom I may be blessed with and I a

**\$6601 (02/07/01)** 

LOVER SOUGHT!

Explore the depths of passion and sexuality with me. Tall, charismatic, blonde musician/entrepreneur seeks intelligent, fit female for fun times, possibly more. **☎**6606 (02/07/01)

Freethinker, single, 49, would share life and laughter with a

**☎**6546 (02/07/01)

My friend 80b's a nice guy, good-looking too. 39, 5°10°, athletic build. N/s, N/Dr. Seeking LTR with lady, 35+, for dinner, movies, walks, Interested in sports, health, nutrition?

**KARMA SUTRA** 

31, financially secure, intelli-gent, compassionate SM looking for 1B+ attractive, vibrant, kind, bisexual WF for local and international adventures. N/DR. N/S.

**☎**6710 (02/28/01)

**BEAUTIFUL ILLUSION** rebellious young Buddhist, knowing that desire leads to suffering, craves bright curious lover with whom to be deluded and blissful, at least for the

**☎**6624 (02/07/01)

Big Man, Big Intellect, 8ig Heart, Big Biceps wants little lady. R U smart and cute enough F 35-45? **≈**659B (02/07/01)

SNAPPY HEADLINE TAKE ONE

Ladies, I'm a handsome, blonde Englishman, 39, who is into the arts, outdoors and travel. Working as a software developer. I do not meet many attractive professional women, and I tend to eschew the bar scene.

±6642 (02/07/01)

### **CUM SIT ON MY**

face. Straight disease free WM, wants to surrender control to in charge female. Use my tongue for your pleasure night or day, I'm just a telephone call away. Sitting on my face or on my knees, I promise to please. ☎6597 (02/07/01)

West Marin left wing hillbilly, neo-bio-neer, mopar on down the road, anyone can walk on the beach, are you ready to go

### **WANNA PLAY?**

Your age is not important, your willingness is. We're good looking, nonsmoking, White, tail, slender. I'm blonde and lots of fun, 40.

**☎**6540 (02/07/01)

### START FAMILY?

Tall loving SWM Professional, 48, homeowner, hike, walk, mo-torcycle, hobby musician seeks slender/medium lady. \$\infty\$6552 (02/07/01)

**HERPES** 50 year old SWM, attractive, humorous and kindhearted, en-joys outdoors, movies, food, conversation. ISO woman for friendship, laughter and LTR. **\$6638 (02/07/01)** 

### **=**6711 (02/28/01) FREE MEMBERSHIP For a Limited time only!

Meet people from all over the Bay Area at one address...



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A new, whole-person approach to online dating

& Pearz.

### WEIRD, UGLY, SHY- BUT

sexually vital guy wants someone with the mission to have fun first-maybe serious later. You like music and/or art, nature- I (a musician) like the same. Fun is the ocean, listening or dancing to music (jazz, blues), imagine... **☎**6404 (1/16/01)

LIVE ABOARD BOAT

housekeeper, cook, sex and live aboard contract, SWF,18-27 years old. I interview sexu ally. Respond by phone in a sexual manner. **≈**6609 (02/07/01)

**ROMANTIC LOVE** 

with magic. Older SWM (over 63), tall, intellectual, progres-sive, fun-loving seeks LTR with non-ageist, Ilberated woman. In terests: writing, theater, creative visualization, non sepa ratist feminism, videography. **☎**6587 (02/07/01)

### DOMINANT MALE

seeks submissive, mature women. Me, tall, dark, hand-some, East Bay. I love to spank women. You: very kinky, must dress very sexy for your daddy. Let's play.

\$\pi 6566 (02/07/01)\$

T6566 (02/07/01)

SF SOCCER MOM
and kids wanted. Will love the
mom, adore the kids, and com
nt optimistically to the joy and
work of making a happy family.
Athletic, kind, and patient exteacher enjoys the pitter-patter
of smaller feet. Adult loves:
soccer and classical music.
Call to hear strong but gentle
voice.

**≈**6582 (02/07/01)

HONEST AND FUN
Handsome SM, 43, 5'10",
180, engineer, former model,
ISO SF between 33-42, N/S,
slim, loving, compassionate,
patient, considerate, easygoing
for LTR.

**≈**6563 (02/07/01) I'm a SWM, 38, 6'4", N/S, edu-cated, fit, athletic ISO slender and adventurous female 21-30, preferably Asian or Black. LOOKING

I am looking for a girls that are 19-30 I am 30 any race send them to me!

**☎**6618 (02/07/01)

### ADORABLE, HUGGABLE

long-haired counselor SAM, 34 long-haired counselor, likes art animals, nature, kickboxing **☎**6648 (02/07/01)

WHERE CAN YOU BE?

WPM, 43 seeking happiness with single, monogamous female, height/weight proportion ate, positive attitude, for LTR that may lead to marriage.

### **\$6536 (02/07/01)**

**≖**6608 (02/07/01)

**SEEKING WOMAN** Understanding, open-minded for LTR with 50 year SWM, het-erosexual cross dresser, S F, left wing, progressive, sense of humor. N/s, N/dr.

### ARTwork and connections presents ...



One Event.

Two Locations.

### **HUNDREDS OF SINGLES.**

Great Holiday Art by Dozens of Local Artists Thursday, Dec. 21, 6 to 8pm

'SKIN'

Nude, erotic and fetish work by 20 artists

Reflections Gallery, 589 Howard St. (between 1st and 2ndSt.) 'SPIRIT LIGHT'

Abstract paintings by Marius Starkey and neon sculpture by Eric Ehlenberger Thirsty Bear Brewery & Restau-

661 Howard St. (between 2nd and 3rd St.)

### **8 GREAT PRIZES:**

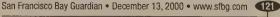
Place your FREE 40-word with the Bay Guardian Connections staff and be entered to win one of eight gift certificates for ARTwork or the Thirsty Bear Brewery & Restaurant.







For more information contact ARTwork at (415) 673-3080 or artworksf.com



### alt.sex.column by andrea nemerson

## Crossing over

My boyfriend is the most amazing lover I've ever had. Our sexual encounters are all that I have ever fantasized sex could be. I'm very comfortable with my sexuality, and I firmly believe in a female's right to enjoy and want sex. The problem: Although my boyfriend is a full-fledged, football-loving, beer-drinking man, he doesn't have much of

It upsets me because he doesn't seem to want vaginal sex. I initiate, and he says that he's tired. He seems happy with sex once or twice a week. I thought men wanted sex whenever they could get it! I start to question his sexuality. Are there some signs that indicate a person is bi or homosexual? Is it possible for a heterosexual man to be in love with you and not want to have sex when

Flummoxed

#### Dear Flum:

Sometimes I really do get to feeling sorry for the remaining football-swilling, beer-loving, full-fledged men among us. Everyone knows that women have always been plagued by repressive social strictures and expectations, but the boys are equally encumbered by the cultural baggage we expect them to carry, not to mention the burdens they impose on themselves. Women, at least, get to bitch about it to other women — imagine those he-men getting together to whine about how their wives never give them an orgasm or how they worry that their dicks are too small. They can't do it, they probably don't even want to do it, but they'd probably feel a lot better if they could.

Whoever told you that a "real man" must be ever ready to jump your willing bones or be forever suspected of being a secret sissy? Unlike most gay men, this guy has a girlfriend and has amazing sex with her a couple of times a week. He certainly sounds heterosexual enough to me.

This is not a question of sexuality (as in lietero-, liomo-, or bi-); it's about levels of desire. Though this is often inconvenient in the extreme, the truth is that libidos vary. Slightly or very mismatched couples are probably more common than the largely mythical perfect soul mates, and couples who wish to stay together are forever balancing one person's longing for sex against the other's wish not to have it. It appears that your sweetie is quite satisfied with your current schedule, and that's probably the way it's going to stay.

My boyfriend of six months has recently admitted to me that he had a few experimental instances with men, at a time in his life when, because of his many failed relationships, he thought that women were not attracted to him. He is younger than me, and it seems to me he made that assumption rather hastily, as he is and will become more and more a gorgeous man. He tells me that is all behind him now (pardon the pun), but he's very interested in my ass, and in me using dildos on him. I'm not really resistant to this, but I'm scared that some day he'll tell me he's really gay. We have no problems in our sex life — he gets hard just by kissing or talking about it. Am I just being "anal"?

Making an Ass of You and Me?

### Dear You:

Please get over it. Everything's going to be just fine. For one thing, your boyfriend talks easily about his past, which is a good sign. I'd be a lot more worried about him freaking out without warning and running off to Fire Island if he'd been the clamp-down, button-up, stay-in-the-closet-till-the-walls-close-in type all along. Also, his instant and consistent interest in having sex with you is the best demonstration I can think of that he wants to be having exactly the sort of sex that he is, in fact, having. This doesn't mean that he isn't bisexual — I couldn't tell you — but what if he were? Contrary to popular legend, bisexuals can and do fall in love and settle down with one person of one gender, and even remaining faithful is not that big a stretch for many of us.

As far as the ass play and the dildos go, he may well have learned a thing or two from his male lovers, but as you are the one now benefiting from his wider-thanusual range of experience, why kick? I should also point out that the only ass he's taking an interest in (besides his own) is yours, and admiring your girlfriend's butt cannot be considered a homosexual act unless, of course, you're a girl.

> Love, Andrea :

A new, full-length, alt.sex.column appears at noon each Friday on sfbg.com. You can reach Andrea at alt.sex.column, Bay Guardian, 520 Hampshire St., S.F., CA 94110; askme@sirius.com; or www.sfbg.com/asc.

5WM, 61, 5'11", 200 lbs., wear dentures, retired blue collar, seeks 55+ femme/casual lady. Enjoy home, TV, travel, comfort food and conversation. Hirsute a plus. **≈**6738 (02/28/01)

Accomplished, attractive, blue-eyed Englishman, in-shape, sensual lover, thoughtful, so-phisticated, worldly, witty, seek-ing deep connection and shar-ing with A/HF, preferably 24-38, long-haired, petite(ish).

### ART APPRECIATING

### **□**6411 (1/16/01)

### THERE LADY

RU-THE-1-FOR-ME? Yes I am a 33 year old SBM ISO a beauti-ful older woman who is caring and full love with a wild sexual

### **BOREDOM IS MALIGNANT**

avoid infection. Intense, whim-sical, hypercreative 5AM, 36, 1SO hypercreative female, 30, emotionally balanced, not flaky/fake, able to think outside of "the box", and themselves, unflinching at life's darker as-pects like Hep C. More info, call.

### SHY YET HORNY? VIRGIN/SEMI-

VIRGIN DEMINITY SEATON OF THE ACT OF THE ACT

**≈**5760 (11/21/00)

East 8ay 8lack man, 49 seeks nice Asian woman for friend, companion and submissive, sexual lover.

**☎**6545 (02/07/01)

### **CAPRICORNS & LEOS**

Commitment, friendship and trust, are these really that difficult? Well-educated, intelligent, fun guy OWM, 52, 5'7", trim, financially stable, multiple interests and active lifestyle seeks lady with similar qualities to develop a LTR. Is this too much to ask for?

**≖**6373 (1/16/01)

### LOOKING FOR LOVE...

Tall, green-eyed 5WPM seeks 35+, fit femme with artistle streak and offbeat sense of humor. We are warm, caring, open & tolerant. **☎**6756 (02/28/01)

Single, El Salvadoran male, 43, 5'9', handsome, clean, wants to meet North American, Chinese or Black female 21-50 for romance and love, possible LTR.

**☎**6604 (02/07/01)

### **MAN-MAMMAL**

### **MADE TO ORDER**

### **FUN, CLEAN-CUT**

attractive W/M, electric worker, student, 37, 150 fun, nice-looking female 20+. Trips around 5 F. Exploritonium, plays, cafes, meet for lunch. **☎**6527 (02/07/01)

### **UNSHAVED?**

Tall, attractive, 5WM, 50, with athletic build, financially secure, seeks hairy, unshaved, dark haired, independent thinking female, for long term relationship. Age, race, unimportant.

**☎**6535 (02/07/01)

### NIGHT IN OLD VIENNA

SWM, 48, easygorng, siim, 5'6", seeks N/5, friendly, at tractive 5WF under 50 to go (Outch) with on New Years Eve \$\pi 6603 (02/07/01)

### **☎**6614 (02/07/01)

Maybe White men can't jump, but this one knows how to eat pusy. Cum ride my face to a multi-climax satisfaction and

**☎**6525 (02/07/01)

Oo you like to laugh? Oo you smoke cannabis? Oo you enjoy music, art? Can you play Oevil's advocate? If so, we should get together.

•6558 (02/07/01)

### **FOXY LADY**

all, 5PF, 30-45, warm, sensitive, intelligent, cosmopolitand dventurous 5BPM, 40+ for dining, dancing, movies and tre-holiday magle. **≈**6539 (02/07/01)

Tall romantic and affectionate European, 5WM, 42, desires an Intelligent curvy

an intelligent curvy female for a spontaneous and passionate relationship. We can enjoy outdoors, music, arts, reading.

#6613 (02/07/01)

**☎**6643 (02/07/01)

### HOLIDAY

**☎**6737 (02/28/01)

### MAN BLESSED

with blithe spirit, true soul, warm heart, strong stomach, funny bone, fit shape, 54, imag-ines woman with same bless-ings and blessedly buxom form.

### A CHANCE MEETING

provides endiess possibilities WW/WM, 50s, 6'1", ISO emo tionally available, affectionate 5WF late forties-mid 50s for dating, friendship, LTR. Let's meet for coffee or lunch.

5WM, 25, young adventurer seeks for good living, literature hiking, conversation, classics/exploitation movies,

**☎**6635 (02/07/01)

connections ads:

#### **WE SHALL BE ONE PERSON**

...and then asked her with my eyes to ask again yes and she drew me down so I could feel her breasts all perfume yes and my heart was going mad and yes I said I will yes... <del>2</del>6644 (02/07/01)

#### PERSIAN WOMAN SOUGHT

for fun and sincere relationship by sensitive, financially secure European man. Seeking hones and long term relationship.

**☎**6571 (02/07/01) **☎**6723 (02/28/01) MFM THREESOME

### SUCCESSFUL SWM

29, tall, handsome, fit, karate expert, comedian, model, good listener, seeks the pretty girl

☎6761 (02/2B/01)

### 9 INCHES AND HANDSOME

Handsome, Intelligent, secur SWPM, 32. Seeks sexy, play mate to explore friends with benefits relationship. No games, just great sex. \$\pi 6524 (02/07/01)\$

Handsome 5WM 46 MBA, brown hair, blue eyes 5'10", 190 lbs., seeks 5AF/5WF young pretty, no kids, for dating.

**☎**6716 (02/28/01)

### LEFTIST, PRO-FEMINIST SWM

52, spiritually progressive, energetic, upbeat, health care professional, loves music, dancing, exercise, outdoor adventures, kids, political and other work, 5eeking leftist, feminist mate.

**☎**6757 (02/28/01)

### SOUND INTERESTING?

Vegan, pagan, barefoot walkin' wiidplant eatin', gultar playin', song writin', and singin', art, lovin', skeieton alignin', left of left, attractive, sveite, 40 year old 5W, manny (male nanny), parlo un po ttaliano. Call for free sample.

**☎**6744 (02/28/01)



### SHE LIKES GIRLS

MWPF, tall, attractive brunette, busty and very biscurious seeks female companions or similar couples for dinner, conversation and intimate encounters. **☎**6630 (02/07/01)

## Are you intelligent, secure, disease free, happy couple seek ing a threesome? Two healthy men pleasuring sexually alive woman is bliss! I'm educated, fit, HIV negative, safe seeking first menage. #6544 (02/07/01)

DIFFERENT

PLAYFUL PAIR

STROKES

**BI MALE** seeks couple for mutual oral fun. I am attractive, fit, clean, discreet, HIV-, STO free, profes sional black male. Call, talk over cocktails.

**☎**6561 (02/07/01)

Mature, professional, secure couple with an appetite for a full-figured woman. We live for pleasure, how about you? \$\pi 5399 (01/3/01)\$

### **ISO PUSSY**

### **JOVEN LATINO**

Well hung, handsome, clean 5WM, brn/blu, 5'9", 160 lbs., 30s, wants to penetrate deep into your woman while you watch. Lesbians okay. ☎6532 (02/07/01)

### **LIKE TO BE WATCHED?**

**☎**6591 (02/07/01)

### **BI-CURIOUS**

**☎**6718 (02/28/01)

### **ATTRACTIVE PENINSULA**

**☎**6627 (02/07/01)

### WANTED

with more to offer downstairs for fun and romance. \$6625 (02/07/01)

### DO YOU LIKE MY DRESS?

22 year old TV looking for someone who wants to find out what's really under my skirt. I'm 5'11, 130lbs., blonde hair, blue eyes, iegs that go on for ever, ready for some action. Let's have fun!

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VOTED SF'S BEST PLACE TO MEET COUPLES
A Unique Atmosphere Dedicated Strictly to Couples
Looking for More Than Just a Dance Club!

### Key To **Abbreviations** The Bay Guardian accepts the following abbreviations in

.....Female LTR....Long-Term Relationship M......Male
NA.....Native America N/DR.....No-Drugs N/S.....Non-Smoker P.....Professional

### **RED HOT** AND BOTHERED

Red hot, red headed cross dressing TV temptress seeks a worthy man to worship. Fetish wear, lingerie, high heels, the only thing missing is you. Hot, horry, handsome men can quench my fiery desires!

### **49 YEAR OLD**

**☎**6652 (02/07/01)

### **HOT MARIN TV**

ISO groups, straight/curious/bi into watching porn and jacking off. Very helpful, versatile, open to all. Very oral, willing bottom. **☎**6567 (02/07/01)



8ig, tall, African Goddess seeks White (preferred) slave to wor-ship and adore me. Cunnilin-gus expert. 25-40. Slim/mus-cular. LTR only. NO ZIPLESS SEX.

**☎**6620 (02/07/01)

Nice, SWM, 30s, with good butt seeks AF, HF, or BF who enjoys massage and giving traditional OTK spankings. Can switch.

\*### 6522 (02/07/01)

#### PAIN. THE CHAIN

RO

0

to pleasures, treasures, with whips, nips to feel and seal. A female leather love slave to this male master. Such a deal.

Yes, 1 am absolutely The Queen. Are you Ready? Willing and able to submit and be ALL you can be? Bend over!!!!! Now!!! Hee, hee **☎**6621 (02/07/01)

### **BEND OVER MY KNEES**

Let your big brother pull your pants down and put you over his knees for a good spanking M or F.

**☎**6221 (1/1B/00)

WM, 45, 6'2", clean HIV-, total submissive bottom, likes cross dressing, older 8lack men, pre-ops women with similar Interests, N/O, N/Dr, N/S, seeking

**26605 (02/07/01)** 

### **HAVE YOU** BEEN A

BAD GIRL? Strapping SWM, ISO females into spankings. Pants down, dress up, nude, over the knee, or bent over my Harley. Discreet, respect limits, and no sex necessary. Let's have

**☎**6639 (02/07/01)

### BE MY **EXCLUSIVE**

slave girl, in and out of bed. I am an SWM, 46. You are a SAF/SWF, pretty, slim, young,

<del>2</del>6556 (02/07/01)

### **NEEDS TO BE SPANKED**

SWM, late 20s, 5'10, 175 lbs, very athletic build, good looking, clean, educated. Seeks female in The City to safely, hand out punishment to him. Has attractive, smooth, well-shaped **☎**6577 (02/07/01)



### **OLIVE FETISH?**

Me, too. I like 'em plump and ripe. If that gets your jiggers in a tizzy, then let's stir things up. I'm a Beefeater gin martini. And I'm all yours. Look in the 8ars what your getting

### DADDY SEEKS "DAUGHTER"

for pampering, cuddling and playful punishment when bad. I'm mature, fit, caring, huge-cocked and an expert spanker. All replies answered. Full-figure

Step on the scales for Daddy, who will decide if his little girl's weight deserves a reward or punishment.

**=**6622 (02/07/01)

### CLYSTER (ENEMA)

Internal herbal washing by re-tired doctor, cleans, removes toxins which make you dull and depressed. Comfortable and soothing. Makes you feel better and look younger. **☎**6167 (12/25/00)

### HALF WAY

**☎**6637 (02/07/01)

MY DADDY?

**☎**6585 (02/07/01)

Tall, Wm, 30s, totally into fe-male midriff area. Let's exer-

YELLOW SHOWERS

Attractive, slim WM ISO single or couples M or F who would like to put me on my knees an punish me with lots of you know what.

WANNA BE

\$6168 (1/18/01)

se together and rub our



### **DIM SUM LUNCH FANS**

Men / Women 50+, educated, professionals, sociable, single. Go to restaurants in Bay Area once per month and other activities planned. \$5777 (12/27//00)

### TRADE WARM

Tall, gentle, strong, WPM, 40s ISO fit, sensitive, caring woman 25-45 to exchange sensuous, healing massages w/o sex. Prior massage skill unneces-

**≈**6592 (02/07/01)

Cinematographer seeks still photographer for travel. Would like to drive cross country and back ASAP. We help each other and share travel expenses. Richard, age 28.

**≈**6537 (02/07/01)

SBF seeking M/F fluent in writ-ten and spoken SpanIsh to coach me in conversational SpanIsh while exploring activi-ties and having fun in S.F. **☎**6713 (02/28/01)

### **VOLLEYBALL GROUP**

Plays Sundays in Golden Gate Park, International mix of peo-ple, nonthreatening atmos-phere. Great afternoons and butdoor exercise. Goes all-year now in our 9th season. Fog or Shine.

**☎**6646 (02/07/01)

### **NATURE LOVER**

Adventurous, independent, o door-loving male seeks folks who love to explore the Bay Area's wild places. All ages, hikers and birders welcome. **☎**5337 (01/15/01)

Handsome Black Male, ex-tremely toned wants to bulk-up seeking serious work-out part-ner. Age, ethnicity, gender does n't matter, knowing about body-building helps. Non-sexual. **☎**6553 (02/07/01)

#### SALSA DANCE PARTNER?

teach you. \$\pi 6554 (02/07/01)\$

COOED VOLLEYBALL GROUP Plays Sundays in Golden Gate Park, International mix of peo-ple, nonthreatening atmos-phere. Great afternoons and outdoor exercise. Goes all-year now in our 9th season. Fog or Shine.

**☎**6646 (02/07/01)

### **SAN MATEO** COUPLE

**MUNI 22** desires, new friends who enjoy massage, spa. affection, gourmet dinners. We're 40s, playful, professional, attractive. N/s, call soon, we're waiting.

### JOIN THE **MADRIGALS**

All-queer-male a capella singers seek additional voices for fun and song, especially countertenors and tenors who are willing to perform in public. Sight-reading and multilingual ability preferred. Weekly rehearsals in San Francisco. **≖**6578 (02/07/01)

38 year old White male, HIV+ and Hep "C" positive, seeking friends with same problems for support and friendship, and doing things together. Possible LTR.

☎65B9 (02/07/01)

### **WOMEN WANTED**

Established group of dining out friends since 1998, we have more men than men at the moment. No membership fee. We're having a blast! We'll make you welcome. **☎**6510 (02/07/01)

### **SEX & CITY**

WOMEN'S CLUB
Oo you watch Sex & City? Seeling intelligent, fun women ages 25-50, any race, any size, for get togethers, phone chats.
Let's rock girls!!! **☎**6714 (02/28/01)

Hero formed when a woman lost her lover to a lion. The Dippers, when a child broke the heirloom tea set. You: When children fell from jungle gyms. ☎6733 (02/2B/01) HALLOWEEN ROSE
The Doctor is wait **☎**6551 (02/07/01)

≈6712 (02/28/01)

BOY GEORGE,

**☎**6565 (02/07/01)

**☎**6602 (02/07/01)

8:30 AM BART

FAIR RUSSIAN

You: waitressed on Polk Stree Me: guy with glasses, always reading. Wanted your number but you stopped working there Still a chance.

Heather! 8ardot a Go-Go was fun. We exchanged names but not numbers (?!)

Maybe next time we could dance at The Top. Pete. #6623 (02/07/01)

**26715** (02/28/01)

11/21/00.

GALINA.

10/25, you: tall brunette, waved to me from balcony when I was leaving, Me: tall, black t-shirt, jeans with two women.

I am sorry you did not want to talk any further. I miss talking with you. I hope you have found someone to hug and hugs you back. Bruce.

WARFIELD

### **LASAGNA & LEMON CHICKEN**

Smiled at you at the deli counter and register, Monday, 11/27 Whole Foods. You: blonde, black turtleneck and



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# SAN FRANCISCO BAY GUARDIAN

### the best only gets better

### **Classified Index**

For Career Education and Employment see

### CareerSource

beginning on Page 129

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### **Ad Deadlines**

LINE ADVERTISING: Copy, space reservations, art and payment must be submitted before Monday, 5 p.m.

DISPLAY ADVERTISING: Copy, space reservations, art, and payment must be submitted by 2 p.m. on the Friday prior to publication.

CONNECTIONS & 18+: All ads must be submitted no later than 2 p.m. on the Friday prior

### **Placing An Ad**

### RY PHONE-

Call the Classified Department at (415) 255-7600 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

### BY FAX:

Fax your ad 24 hours a day to the Classified Department at (415) 621-2016.

### BY MAIL:

Use the Classified order form in this section and mail to Bay Guardian Classifieds, 520 Hampshire Street, San

### BY E-MAIL:

Send your ad copy to classifieds@sfbg.com and we'll call or e-mail back your quote within one business day.

Visit our offices Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 520 Hampshire Street (at Mariposa Street).

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advertising is strictly pre-paid. No refunds after submis-sion of payment, Cancelled ads will receive credit for fu-ture advertising. Ads must be cancelled before deadline for that issue. The Publisher reserves the right to edit,

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(tormerly Project)
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Free skin care & opportunity to appear on T.V. Dramatic results. Dermatologist

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1-800-736-3223 ext.238 or 415-955-0855

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#### Exqueeze Me!

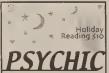
Have you ever felt my hands on your body? They bring you the ul timate friendship between your body & mind. Highly skilled body therapist drawing from many ap Chi Nei Tsang, Hypnotherapy. Lisa CMT, CHT, MA.

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..please see our ad in the Trav Call (415) 397-3977.





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..in Venice Italy with Mosaic classes in Ravenna. Feb. 1:15 \$2575. includes arrare, hotel. classes and more. \$1995 w/o Mosaic class. Contact Valerie @ 415-824-2153.

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rrom Oakland
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Personal

Messages

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Weddings

FILE NO. 245134 FILE NO. 245134
The following person is doing business as AMERICAN HARD-WOOD FLOORING, 742 Treat Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94110
ROBERT JOSEPH GARI, 742 Treat Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94110. Registrant commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date November 30, 2000. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed ROBERT I. GARI. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of 5an Francisco, CA by M. Lucas Reston, on November 30, 2000.

December 6, 13, 20, 27, 2000.

December 6, 13, 20, 27, 2000. L# 3S1002 NDTICE TO CREDITORS OF DIS-SOLUTION OF CORPORATION: SDLUTION OF CORPDRATION:
Notice is hereby given pursuant
to Cal. Corp. Code § 1904,
1807 that LTM FORMWORKS,
INC., California Corporation has
filed a venfied petition for voluntary dissolution of corporation.

CREDITORS SHOULD MAKE
AND PRESENT ANY CLAIMS
AND PRODFS TD:
LTM FORMWORKS, INC.

LTM FORMWORKS, INC.
1218 Michigan Street
5an Francisco, CA 94107
CLAIMS AND PROSOFS 5HOULO
BE MAGE AND PRESENTED NO
50 ONER THAN FOUR MONTHS
FROM INOVEMBER 29, 2000)
AND NO LATER THAN 5IX
MONTHS AFTER THE OATE OF
THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS
NOTICE.

EPSTEIN & BOSKOFF, LLP 2306 Market Street # 412 5an Francisco, CA 94114 415.863.5718

415.863.5718

November 29, December 6, 13, 2D, 2000. L# 350904.

DRDER TD SHOW CAUSE FDR CHANGE DF NAME ND. 316SS8

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN ANO FOR THE COUNTY OF 5AN FRANCISCO. In the Matter of the Application of OAVIS JUNG PARK for change of name. The application of OAVIS JUNG PARK for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that his parents KAP SOO PARK have filed an application proposing that parents KAP SOO PARK and YOUNG SOON PARK have filed an application proposing that His name be changed to OAVIO JUNG PARK, Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Oepartment 218 on the 8th day of January, 2001, at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the 5an Francisco Bay Guardian a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Oated this 9th day of November, 2000. Alfred G. Chiantelli, Judge of said Superior Court. November 22, 29, December 5,13, 2000. L# 350802

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME ND. 31648 CHANGE OF NAME ND. 31648
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN
ANO FOR THE COUNTY OF 5AN
FRANCISCO. In the Matter of the
Petition of ARLINOA J. WATSON
(minor) KARLA MELARA (mother)
For Change of Name. The application of ARLINOA J. WATSON for For Change Of Name. The application of ARLINOA J. WATSON for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that ARLINOA J. WATSON has filed an application proposing that HER name be changed to ARLINOA J. MELARA. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Oepartment 218 on the 21st day of Oecember, 2000, at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the 5an Francisco Bay Guardian a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the day of said shearing. Oated this 7th day of November, 2000. Alfred G. Chiantelli, Judge of said Superior Court. November 29, December 6, 13, 20, 2000. L# 350901.

MEET SDMEONE SPECIAL in your area! Record & browse per sonal greetings Free! Men call: (310)873-0533; (415)820-0102. Ladies call: (310)873-0532; (415)820-1022. (CAL\*5CAN) **Legal Notices** November 29, December 6, 13, 20, 2000. L# 3S9901
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME NO. 316837
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE 5TATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF 5AN FRANCISCO. In the Matter of the Application of MARIA TERESA GAMEZ WANG for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application of MARIA TERESA GAMEZ WANG has filed an application or MARIA TERESA GAMEZ WANG has filed an application proposing that HER name be changed to MARIA TERESA WANGAMEZ. FICTITIDUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILINOS BOSINESS NATION TIPE OF THE NO. 244431. The following person is doing business as AZTEC SECURITY SERVICES. 860 Innes Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94124: LANEITA J. WARO. & TERRELL R. WARO, 860 Innes Avenue, 5an Francisco, CA 94124. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed LANEITA J. WARO. This statement was filled with the County Clerk of the City and County OSan Francisco, CA by GERARDO ROMO, on October 25, 2000. November 22, 29, December 6, 13, 2000. L# 350803 Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Operatment 218 on the 22nd day of January, 2001, at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the San Francisco Bay Guardian a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the day of said Spenior Court. November 29, December 6, 13, 20, 2000. Lift 350902

DRDER TD SHDW CAUSE FIR CHANGE DRAME DRAME

November 29, December 6, 13, 2D, 2000. L# 350902

DRDER TD 5HDW CAUSE FDR
CHANGE DF NAME NO. 316826
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN
AND FOR THE COUNTY OF 5AN
FRANCISCO. In the Matter of the
application of JENNIFER
SHUWALL For Change Of Name.
The application of JENNIFER
SHUWALL For Change of name,
having been filed in Court, and it
appearing from said application
that JENNIFER SHUWALL has
filed an application proposing
that Her name be changed to
GEORGIA 5TOKES BELLUM.
Now, therefore, it is hereby or

Now, therefore, it is hereby or dered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Operatment 218 on the 22nd day of January, 2001, at 9,00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the 5an Francisco Bay Guardian a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Oated this November 20, 2000. Alfred G. Chantelli, Judge of said Superior Court. November 29, December 6, 13, 20, 2000. Lt 3 S0903

DRDER TD SHDW CAUSE FDR CHANGE DF NAME ND.
316340 IN THE SUPERIOR COUNT, at It is prior to the day of said hearing. In the Matter of the Application of JENNIFER CATHERENE BROWN For Change Of Name. The application of JENNIFER CATHERENE BROWN For Change of Name. The application of JENNIFER CATHERENE BROWN For Change of the Signal of the Signal of Signal of Signal of Signal of Ocember, 2000 at 19 Signal of Signal Ocember, 2000 at 19 Signal of Signal of Signal Ocember, 2000 at 19 Signal Ocember

Superior Court. December 6, 13, 20, 27, 2000. L# 350103

RORER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME NO. 316428 IN THE 5UPERIOR COURT OF THE 5TATE OF CAULTY OF 5AN FRANCISCO. In the Matter of the application of CHI PHUONG THAI For Change of Name. The application of CHI PHUONG THAI For Change of Name. The application of CHI PHUONG THAI For Change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that CHI PHUONG THAI for Change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that CHI PHUONG THAI has filed an application of CHI PHUONG THAI has filed an application proposing that Her name be changed to CATHY C. P. THAI. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Cepartment 218 on the 8th day of January. 2001, at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the 5an Francisco Bay Guardian a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Oated this 3rd day of November, 2000. Alfred G. Chiantelli, Judge of said Supenor Court. November 29, December 6, 13, 20, 2001. L# 3S0901 November 29, December 6, 13, 20, 2000. L# 350901

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### **Aries**

March 21 – April 19

It's easy to be judgmental about people who don't share your particular vices. It's a little more difficult to issue moral condemnations against those who share your favorite flavor of naughtiness, especially if they're lightweights compared with you. Keep your righteousness relative this week, and that goes double if you outshine the competition.

#### **Taurus**

April 20 – May 20

Venus abandons you for a dot-com yuppie this week, leaving you with a faint whiff of perfume, a number to a nonfunctioning cell phone, and a few hazy memories. Don't take it too hard. Venus always comes back to Taurus eventually, and you're good at waiting. Especially with Saturn making time appear to move with an might illustrate. incredible lack of velocity.

#### Gemini

May 21 – June 20

This is the time of year when I sit back and congratulate myself for not living in Maine, or Reykjavik, or any of those places where winter is relatively assertive. Of course, if you're unhappy, it's a cold world no matter and you're sure to spot that one fact where you're spending the winter. Bring warmth into somebody's life this week.

### Cancer

June 21 – July 22

Censorship is an antiquated concept. If somebody wants information desperately enough, he or she will be able to find it. Maybe without even leaving the house. And if somebody is rude enough to tell you that you shouldn't be feeding your brain with the sort of stimuli you prefer, disregard that person. Don't let anybody restrict your data flow this week.

#### Leo

July 23 – Aug. 22

Social activity is not for the fainthearted this week. So if you're feeling like more of a scaredy cat than a social lion, exercise your right to leave parties right after arriving, or to just stay home wearing your crappy sweatshirt and reading a book. Avoid trouble by putting personal comfort over obligations to others. If trouble is what you seek, however, you'll find plenty of invitations and encouragement.

### Virgo

Aug. 23 – Sept. 22

Interpersonal complications will make your week more interesting. You can minimize your annoyance by disregarding secondhand gossip and accusations. After all, why bother assisting people who are too lazy to engage in their own conflicts?

Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

I'm having one of those personal astrological transits where I have an insatiable thirst for music. This is much more fun than the one where cdroff@pacbell.net.

I had a determined lust for chocolate (which I'm still working off), or the inexplicable desire for towels that all matched. Sometimes you just have a burning need for some particular flavor of pleasure. Indulge yours this week.

### Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 20

One socially acceptable method of getting even with those who have done you wrong is to write a heartfelt story about the events that transpired, from your point of view, and then sell it to some independent film producer and move on. Another would be to form a support group for others who have been wronged, which will allow you to generally redress injustice by helping others. There are far less socially acceptable revenge methods, as this week

### **Sagittarius**

Nov. 21 - Dec. 21

Stay alert. A vital clue is hidden somewhere within your week, but it might get lost amid the trivia. If your focus is too narrow, you're bound to miss it. Give equal time to all of the data that filters through your brain vou need.

### Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

Everybody needs somebody to blame things on, a scapegoat. And since Capricorn is the sign of the goat, you really must protest this shameful and egregious breach of goat rights. Don't let anybody in your world get away with aiming his or her anger at targets who aren't guilty.

### **Aquarius**

Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

Bad dreams are a total bummer when you're psychic, because it's hard to tell them from intuitive flashes. For example, I really hope the one where Bill Clinton declared himself emperor and thereafter lolled upon a throne surrounded by naked girls while playing saxophone was merely a focusing of my subconscious attitudes toward my shadow and not a genuine prediction. Or maybe it was only a movie, like the time I dreamed what later turned out to be Battlefield Earth and nearly slit my wrists on the assumption that it was the actual future. Anyway, your subconscious and your intuition can color your decisions this week, so be subaware.

### **Pisces**

Feb. 19 - March 20

Sleeping Beauty had to have been a Pisces. Who else could have carried out a torrid romance while passed out unconscious? Love can wake you up this week. Of course, there's always the possibility that you might prefer remaining asleep. 💠

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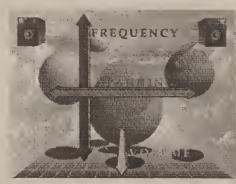
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#### AOMINISTRATIVE

ADMINISTRATIVE

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Publisher/

Assistant to the

Office Manager

The San Francisco 8ay Guardian

skills, and strong written and oral abilities. The successful

candidate also must be cus-tomer focused, possess a sense of humor, have an ability to work under intense deadlines, and the ability to represent the pub-lisher's office within the broader community. Individuals desiring

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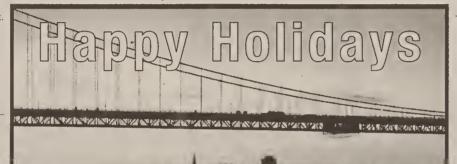
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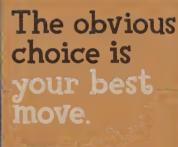
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